AGRI-NEWS

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September 1, 1980

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THE BEGINNING OF THE COMMUNITY PASTURE PROGRAM

by Roman Fodchuk

I recall some highlights that resulted in the formulation of the province's Community Pasture Program, now a multi-faceted program. We jointly organized with the M.D. of Eagle and the agricultural service board in my early years as a rookie DA (1955 - 1957) two areas that were to form the basis of the new Community Pasture Program.

The M.D. of Eagle extends for a distance of about 100 miles and is 50 miles wide along the south side of the North Saskatchewan River from Willingdon to Derwent. At various locations there were concentrations of sand dunes and sandy soils where fertility was poor and the resultant agricultural production was marginal under the best of conditions. During years of low precipitation the crops would dry out and the soil would blow over to the next county.

Two such areas were readily evident not only from the appearance of the vegetation but also from the changing tax rolls in the M.D. of Eagle. One area was northeast of Two Hills in the Rannoch district and the other was to the northeast of Myrnam in the Slawa district.

Initially, we met with Gordon Sterling, chairman of the Land Utilization Committee and executive assistant to the deputy minister, and outlined our approach, asking for assistance for the service board and the municipalities to establish community pastures. We had the full support of council and the agricultural service board. Fred Magera, district agriculturist at Willingdon, sat on our service board and gave his full support. The reeve, John Thachuk, and the council members instructed Paul Stewart, the agricultural board supervisor, and myself to proceed with planning for the project.

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The Beginning Of The Community Pasture Program (cont'd)

Our first step was to review soils maps and to correlate soil fertility with actual field productivity to determine the feasibility of establishing community pastures in Eagle. S. Mulka, the municipal secretary, was very helpful to us in preparing a proposal encompassing lands that were continually reverting to the municipality for back taxes. The criteria of municipal ownership and the many tax sales were excellent. We were able to justify an assembly of two suitable parcels of land in the municipality, both of which were of approximately 48 square miles. Only two or three farms had to be expropriated, and, in each case, the operations were very marginal.

The sad part of this program was that the farmers living on these lands had developed a stamina against insurmountable odds and a high subsistence efficiency in their farming methods in order to cope with these sub-standard conditions. They were "survivors". However, they did receive adequate compensation for their lands and went on to a better life. Where their financial return had been only adequate for a "horse farming" economy, it was now adequate for a mechanized tractor operation.

I recall one persistent "hold out" living in the middle of the area designated as the Rannoch Community Pasture who stood his ground and would not accept any kind of offer. The municipality finally had to stop plowing his access road in the winter. Needless to say, he relented, and I believe is now contentedly retired.

The community pastures which we initiated are each managed by a livestock growers association. Scrub brush and aspen stands have been cleared and planted to an appropriate range of grasses. A manager oversees and manages the grazing.

In a recent discussion, John Dudar, reeve for the county of Two Hills (successor to M.D. Eagle) told me that the people and the municipality are fully cognizant of this valuable resource and feel well compensated through the benefits derived.

The Beginning Of The Community Pasture Program (cont'd)

This was but one of the many new ideas and programs that we initiated in the M.D. Eagle. Others that were of some significance to agriculture in the area were the plywood-expoxy granary construction field days, the green silage and pit silo field days and the plowing and tillage machinery field trials. Some of their results were evident in the number of master farmers and oat and barley kings in the district. Joe Gurba, Fred Magera and my other DA predecessors were to a large extent responsible for getting the "ball to roll" in an uphill manner. However, we had a lot of fun doing it!

About the Author:

Roman Fodchuk was a rookie DA under the guidance of Fred Magera and then Marcel Cheverett before he took on the 2,500 farmers in the M.D. of Eagle. When he had learned how little he knew about land planning, perhaps the result of the Rannoch and Slawa community pastures program, he went on to Berkeley, California, and Harvard University in the United States. He spent sometime in Eastern Canada with the University of Guelph and the National Capital Commission before returning to Alberta where he is now a successful principal of a consulting practice in landscape architecture and recreational urban land planning.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RABIES SITUATION IN ALBERTA

About 40 skunks out of approximately 500 that have been trapped since the beginning of the year in southern Alberta have been found to be a rabid.

The director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, Dr. H.N. Vance, reports that all but one of the rabid skunks were picked up in the Warner-Foremost area. The other was found in the Medicine Hat area.

According to Dr. Vance, the disease, which seems to have established itself in the southern part of the province, probably came in from Saskatchewan or Montana. He says that sampling of the skunk population in the area is being carried out in an attempt to establish its boundaries, both to the west and to the north. Once these boundaries have been established, depopulation will be carried out within the whole area. However, the success of the program will not be known until late in the fall when the skunks begin to collect to hibernate for the winter. At that time more skunks come in contact with human beings who can then observe any unusual behavior.

A depopulation program was initiated in 1970 in an 18-mile wide zone on Alberta's eastern border, extending from Cold Lake in the north to the Montana in the south, to reduce the number of skunks and to slow the spread of this disease. At that time the disease which first appeared in Saskatchewan in 1963, had spread to the Alberta border. The first case of skunk rabies was reported in Alberta at the beginning of 1971. In addition to the 18-mile wide depopulation zone, a three-mile wide area was depopulated around each place that a rabid skunk was found.

According to Dr. Vance, the Alberta program has been very effective until now. He says the number of cases of rabies in skunks in Alberta have been only a fraction of those

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Rabies Situation In Alberta (cont'd)

found in Saskatchewan. From 1970-1976, for example, only 3.3 per cent of the skunks submitted by the public in Alberta were found to have rabies compared with about 55 per cent in Saskatchewan.

Bats are the second major reservoir of rabies in Alberta, but the infection rate of the province's bat population is probably less than one per cent. Although there have been outbreaks of rabies in bat colonies, and as many as nine rabid bats were collected in one town one fall, the transmission of rabies from bats to other mammals appears to be rare. Most of the infrequent human exposures to bat rabies result from inadequate precautions having been taken when the bats were handled. The best way of avoiding exposure to a rabid bat is not to handle it and to block holes in buildings to prevent bats from establishing a colony there.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A LUCRATIVE NEW INDUSTRY FOR ALBERTA

Alberta could have a lucrative new industry in the not too distant future -- leaf-cutter bees!

These little insects are essential for the production of alfalfa seed, a very important crop in Canadian agriculture. According to Larry Gareau, acting secretary of the Alberta Forage Seed Council, alfalfa seed is very expensive because it has to be pollinated by insects other than honeybees. He says the job of tripping the flowers and cross pollinating them was performed by a relatively large number of native leafcutters 40 years ago, but, unfortunately, these bees were destroyed as more land was opened up and their nesting sites were burned.

Western Canada started importing domestic leafcutters from the Western United States 20 years ago and set about developing management techniques that were adapted to Western Canadian conditions. These techniques made it possible to multipy the bees here, and they are now being exported back to the United States.

Mr. Gareau reports there is a tremendous demand in that country for Canadian leafcutters because they are free from parasites and a disease known as chalkbrood, both of which are causing serious problems in the Western United States. The demand for Canadian leafcutters is also growing rapidly in other places, including the Soviet Union, which was offering 3¢ a bee last year.

This year an estimated 100 million leafcutters will be produced in Western Canada, mainly in Northern Saskatchewan, Northern Alberta, the Peace River Block and Brooks, Alberta. "Of this number about half will likely to be exported to the United States," Gareau says. Last year's average North American price was about 2½¢ per bee."

Cool temperatures have been one of the main problems with domestic leafcutter bees in northern areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan, where most of Canada's alfalfa seed was

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A Lucrative New Industry For Alberta (cont'd)

traditionally produced. However, scientists at the federal research station at Beaverlodge have designed a polyethylene shelter for leafcutter bee nesting boxes that produces a greenhouse effect around the box. The result has been that the bees then go out and forage when the temperature is below 20° C. Leafcutter bees normally work best in a temperature of from 20° to 25° C. The shelter appears to be very promising from the point of view of adapting domestic leafcutters to those northern areas that produced a large quantity of seed before the native leafcutter disappeared.

Since a female leafcutter can lay up to two eggs a day, an alfalfa producer not only gets the benefit of having his crop pollinated by these insects, but he can also make as much as $200 an acre from their multiplication.

Adult leafcutters die during the growing season, and the cocoons are collected from the nesting boxes and stored in a cool place during the winter (they can be preserved almost indefinitely at a low temperature). About June 1, which is about three weeks before the alfalfa is due to bloom, the cocoons are placed in an incubator where they emerge as adult bees.

Leafcutter bee nesting boxes are made of grooved wood or polystyrene. The grooves form tiny tunnels where the females lay their eggs. One nesting box can hold up to 20,000 bees.

Information on raising and managing leafcutter bees can be obtained in Alberta from Bob Park, Secretary, Alberta Leafcutter Bee Association, Field Crops Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Bag Service 47, Lacombe, TOC 1SO.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTING URINARY CALCULI IN RANGE CALVES

A scientist at the federal research station in Lethbridge recommends giving a creep feed that contains a high level of salt to calves in herds where significant losses commonly occur from urinary calculi two to three months after weaning.

Dr. C.B. Bailey, animal physiologist at the research station, says a creep feed which contains 15 to 20 per cent salt will prevent calculi from forming because the salt induces the consumption of extra water. For this reason it is most important that calves that are given a high-salt creep feed have an abundant supply of good water.

Studies carried out at Lethbridge show that calculi begin to form in calves grazing on southern Prairie grassland before they are weaned, even though deaths from this condition usually occur after weaning. However, deaths do sometimes occur before weaning.

Dr. Bailey says range-type calculi, composed of silica, are produced when the silica content of the urine is high, and that the condition occurs in cattle on native grass whose water intake is less than 3.5 kg for each kg of grass (dry weight) consumed.

A calf's intake of grass and water increases steadily after its first month of life. At four months of age, its water intake is about 5 kg per kg of grass and dry matter consumed, but by about four and a half months of age, or by about the beginning of September, its water intake drops to less than 3.5 kg per kg of dry grass. At this stage silica conditions in the urine are similar to those that could form calculi in older calves.

"We do not know," says Dr. Bailey, "whether all calculi that cause an obstruction of the urinary tract begin to form before calves are weaned. Although the rapid growth of calculi is more likely to occur in weaned calves during the very cold weather, when water consumption is lower then than it is in the warm weather, cases of obstruction that appear soon after weaning are thought to be due to calculi that began to form before weaning."

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A HARVEST AID FOR FLAX

Studies carried out at the federal research station at Morden, Manitoba, show that the seed on flax plants sprayed with diquat (Reglone) reach a harvestable moisture level from two to 14 days earlier than is the case with untreated plants, depending on weather conditions. In most cases the diquat hastened drying to the point where the crop could be direct-combined.

Phil Thomas, supervisor of cereal and oilseed crops with Alberta Agriculture, says that flax producers in Alberta should seriously consider the regular use of diquat on their flax seed crops.

Seedball and leaf browning usually occur rapidly in the Manitoba tests after a flax crop has been sprayed, but stem browning is slower. Sometimes the whole stem dries out, but most of the time at least the top 30 per cent dries. The amount of stem drying was seldom unsatisfactory.

Although a rate of 0.28 kg/ha was adequate in many instances, a rate of up to 0.56 kg/ha may be required when weed and crop growth are heavy or when faster and more complete drying is necessary.

The scientists recommend delaying spraying until after the 25 per cent green seedball stage (normal swathing time) for minimum effect on yield and quality. Yield reductions of up to 20 per cent were recorded when diquat was applied at the 50 and 75 per cent green seedball stages. When diquat was applied during the 25 per cent green seedball stage, the yield

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A Harvest Aid For Flax (cont'd)

was not reduced except in 1978. Spraying at the earlier stages of growth produced the greatest yield reduction in years like 1978 when the unsprayed stands matured very slowly. The yield was not affected in 1975 when heat and drought caused rapid maturation.

The following table shows flax seed yield as a percentage of the control after an application of diquat at three stages of maturity (at mean rates of 0.28 and 0.56 kg/ha).

Percentage of capsules still green when sprayed	1974	1975	1977 early seeding	1977 late seeding	1978 early seeding	1978 late seeding
75	–	100	80	84	–	–
50	86	96	–	–	82	80
25	109	98	98	106	83	94

While there was no marked difference in oil content due to spraying, weight per seed generally followed the same trend as that recorded for yield, being lower when yield was lower. Seed germination was reduced slightly in only three tests.

Flax that is sprayed with diquat should be harvested as soon as possible after it is ready. Weathering of seed was more severe on sprayed plants that were left standing for a long time after they were ready to harvest than it was on unsprayed plants.

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CEMENT KILN DUST FOR FEEDLOT STEERS

Recent reports from the United States have indicated that cement kiln dust substantially improved the rate of gain and the feed efficiency of feedlot steers on hay and concentrate rations.

Although the mechanism by which the dust improved animal performance in these trials is not known, cement dust could be useful as a source of calcium in animal rations. Also, the buffering capacity of cement dust may help to maintain the rumen pH when a high grain diet is fed.

Animal scientists at the University of Alberta conducted an experiment to find out if cement kiln dust could be used as a relatively cheap source of calcium in animal feeds and whether it has any beneficial or detrimental effects on performance.

Thirty-two Hereford steers with an average weight of 320 kg were selected at random and allotted within weight groups to eight pens which were partially covered by an open-front shed. Four pens of steers received the control all-concentrate diet while the other four pens received a similar diet to which had been added 3.5 per cent cement dust.

In the overall experiment the control steers gained 0.12 kg more weight per day than the steers fed the dust. However, the cattle fed the dust tended towards a greater feed intake and a faster rate of gain during the first 40 days of the 125-day trial. The control group gained the most weight during the last third of the feeding period. The amount of ration required per kg of gain was 8.25 kg for the cement dust-fed group and 7.35 for the control group. This 12 per cent increase in feed requirements for the cattle fed the dust is in contrast to results obtained in the United States

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Cement Kiln Dust for Feedlot Steers (cont'd)

where the feed to gain ratios were improved by 21 to 42 per cent when cement kiln dust was added to the hay-concentrate rations.

The University of Alberta scientists believe that the difference between the Alberta and American results could be related to the amount of essential trace elements present in the different feeds and in the different cement dusts.

In addition to trace amounts of other elements, the cement dust used in the University of Alberta experiment contained 33 per cent calcium and 0.7 to 0.75 ppm of selenium. This is enough to significantly contribute towards meeting an animal's requirements for this essential nutrient when cement dust is used as a source of calcium, but not enough to cause toxicity problems. The concentration of lead, however, was high enough in this particular cement dust (231 to 240 ppm) to be potentially harmful to the animals or to accumulate in edible tissues if fed over a long period.

Since substantially more cement dust was included in the steer diets in the University of Alberta experiment than would be necessary if the dust was to be used only as a source of calcium, and no major health problems were encountered, it can be concluded that cement dust is a potential source of calcium for animal feeds. In fact, it may be that a positive response to cement dust could be obtained by feeding it at a high level only during the first month of the feeding period. However, because the lead content and the content of other trace elements in cement kiln dust undoubtedly differ considerably from one source to another, a careful trace element analysis should always be carried out on the dust before it is used as a source of calcium in animal feeds.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWATHING RAPESEED

by Andy Birch
District AGriculturist at Stettler

Judging when to swath rapeseed is pretty frustrating this year. Many rapefields are maturing unevenly due to variable germination last spring.

Seed color is a more accurate indication of level of maturity and proper stage to cut than is field color. About 25 per cent of the seeds should have started to change from green to brown for the Argentine varieties (Altex, Tower, Regent) and from yellow or brown for the Polish variety Candle. At this point, the moisture content should be about 35 per cent and the seeds should be in the firm dough stage. Even though the field may not show signs of adequate ripening, seed color change is the important criterion to consider when deciding when to swath.

To get a representative sample of the degree of seed color change, collect seed from both the upper and lower pods of 10 to 12 plants in different parts of the field. This procedure will take into account the variation in maturity within plants and between plants in different locations. Mix the samples well and then determine the percentage of color change.

There should be some color change in the seed in all the pods on the main branch before any of the Polish varieties (Candle, Torch) are swathed. In the Argentine varieties, all the seeds in the lowest pods on the main branch should have changed color.

Early swathing (over 45 per cent seed moisture) can reduce yield and grade losses, while swathing too late may result in serious losses from shattering.

When swathing, it is advisable to cut just below the lowest pods so that a maximum amount of stubble is left standing. The combine reel should be set as high and as far forward as possible and the reel speed should be the same as the forward ground speed. A pick-

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Swathing Rapeseed (cont'd)

up reel may be necessary for crops that are lodged or tangled. Extending the divider board may also be helpful under these conditions. Cutting in the direction of the prevailing wind or the use of a swath roller to anchor the swath in the stubble will help to reduce wind damage.

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STORED GRAIN BEETLE PRECAUTIONS

Alberta farmers who have had a persistent problem with stored grain beetles should consider treating their grain as it is being binned. This suggestion does not apply to farmers who have not had a problem in the past.

Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture believes that stored grain beetles are likely to create a serious problem for grain producers again this year. He points out that there are a lot of grain bins in the province, including empty ones, that have a low level of infestation from last year.

He says there are two kinds of treatment that can be used. One is a liquid form of malathion and the other is a dust form. The liquid form is called Cythion (83.6% malathion) and is applied to the grain as it is being augered into the bin at a rate of 10 fluid ounces in three to five gallons of water per 1,000 bushels of grain.

The dust is called Malathion Grain Protector and can be either sprinkled on the top of the grain when the truck box is full and before the truck leaves the combine or it can be dispensed into the auger as the grain is being binned. All that has to be done when the dust is applied to the grain in the truck box is to cut it into the grain with a shovel. The movement of the truck during transit and the action of the auger will provide ample mixing action. A farmer who dispenses the dust into the auger will have to make his own dispenser because there are no suitable ones available.

Although the two forms of malathion for treating grain may not be widely distributed, most grain companies and many chemical companies can get them if they have a little advance notice.

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WARBLE TREATMENT ALSO CONTROLS CATTLE LICE

Warble grub pour-on treatments that are applied in the fall provide good louse control up to about the first of February.

This is the conclusion of Dr. Ali Khan, livestock pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, after having conducted trials on 394 yearling heifers from five different herds.

The animals in these trials were treated with fampher or fenthion in the latter part of October, and the louse population was evaluated at frequent intervals during the following 19 weeks.

Dr. Khan reports that the pour-on applications gave excellent louse control. Seventy-seven per cent of the heifers were free of lice at the end of the 19-week period and the remaining 33 per cent showed a very light infestation during the 17 to 19 week period.

Dr. Khan points out that these results mean that cattle which have been treated with a grub control pour-on are protected from a severe infestation of lice during the two coldest months of the year, namely December and January.

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FARM SURVEY OF PESTICIDE USE IN ALBERTA

The four problem areas emphasized by respondents to a survey carried out last year by Alberta Environment's pesticide chemicals branch were the storage and disposal of pesticides, safety measures and equipment and the proper use and handling of pesticides.

The safe storage of unused pesticides in heated, dry, locked facilities was reported on only 8 per cent of the 333 farms survey. The remainder stored them in such places as the house, garage, pumphouse, workshop or barn. Many farmers were aware that their storage methods were not safe but said they were unable to change the situation because of lack of time, funds or facilities.

An acceptable form of disposing of pesticides was used by 29 per cent of the farmers surveyed. Lack of knowledge about safe methods and the unavailability of proper disposal facilities resulted in many farmers using methods they considered to be the best or most convenient.

Fifty-eight per cent of the respondents did not wear any safety equipment while handling pesticides either because of the unavailability of protective equipment or because of the inconvenience of wearing it.

The survey also showed that 10 per cent of the farmers experienced livestock illnesses or deaths from the use of pesticides; 36 per cent reported crop or shelterbelt damage; 21 per cent had encountered problems with chemical residues; 10 per cent reported problems with ruptured cans and spilled chemicals; and 27 per cent had suffered health problems connected with the handling of pesticides.

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Farm Survey Of Pesticide Use in Alberta (cont'd)

The problems outlined above often originated from the overapplication of chemicals; poor application methods; poor timing; improper handling of chemicals during their application; transportation difficulties and insufficient safety measures.

To improve the situation, the respondents suggested such things as changes in pesticide labels, smaller container sizes and training in the proper use and handling of pesticides.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZUCCHINI, ZUCCHINI!

by Debbie Brekke
District Home Economist at Stettler

If you planted your whole package of zucchini seeds this year, you probably have zucchini coming out your ears.

When selecting zucchinis, try to pick small, young ones that are firm. They can be stored in the refrigerator for about a week. Zucchini can be baked, boiled, stuffed or scalloped. With zucchini, your imagination is the limit! They can be used in salads, as a main dish, as a vegetable and in quick breads, cakes etc.

If you have an overwhelming abundance of zucchini, why not freeze them for use later in quick breads, casseroles etc. To freeze zucchini, wash, trim the ends and cut it into 1/4" slices. Blanch for two minutes in boiling water, chill and drain well. Zucchini freezes better if placed on a cookie sheet. As soon as it is frozen, put it in bags, and then into the freezer.

If you need zucchini recipes, here is one.

Zucchini Bread

2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
dash cloves
2 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. salt

1/2 cup oil
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup milk
1 1/2 cups grated zucchini
1/2 cup raisins or currants

Sift dry ingredients together. Combine oil, sugar, eggs and vanilla. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk to sugar mixture. Stir in zucchini and raisins. Turn into greased 9" x 5" loaf pan. Bake at 350° F until skewer inserted in the centre of loaf comes out clean (65 to 75 minutes). Cool in pan 10 minutes; remove from pan. Makes one loaf.

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THOUGHTS OF EARLY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ATHABASCA DISTRICT

by George Godel

Late in the 1940's in a year of almost unprecedented drought in the Athabasca district, a 50-acre field of wheat on alfalfa brow-plowing a few miles west of Athabasca yielded 21 bushels per acre. Neighboring wheat fields on good summerfallow yielded only four to five bushels per acre. The whole district was declared a complete crop failure under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act (PFAA). The 50-acre wheat field was part of a six-year grain rotation which I had established in 1944 in co-operation with the Joe Eherer family. Its purpose was to demonstrate, on a large scale, what the late Dr. F.A. Wyatt of the University of Alberta's soils department had found and demonstrated at the Breton plots.

In the early 1950's, more co-operators were secured under the Balanced Farming Program, and in 1957, when Farm and Home was introduced, the complete elimination of full summerfallowing had become the major policy of the Athabasca district.

Today, full summerfallowing, except under severe infestations of perennial weeds, is almost a thing of the past, not only throughout the grey wooded soil zone of Alberta but also over most of the black soil zone. It is hard to understand why the change took so long to achieve and met so much resistance.

Considerable refinements naturally took place in the forage-grain rotations to meet soil types and above all to meet individual farm plans. Basic recommendations along with forage crops were: suitable commercial fertilizers in adequate amounts; relatively early seeding, not too deep; and packing or the use of a press drill.

Another major contribution of the Athabasca district has been to prove that well fertilized hay and pasture crops from grass-grain rotations, given quality breeding stock and

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Thoughts Of Early Agricultural Development In the Athabasca District (cont'd)

sound management practices, could produce quality finished steers with only one-third of the grain input. Most cattlemen on the Farm and Home Program regularly received the maximum price for their steers, and often a bonus.

Now a comment on the Farm and Home Program, which the Athabasca district adopted in earnest soon after it was introduced to Alberta by Dr. Ernest Nesius in early 1957. That fall the Athabasca district organized eight groups which met every month for several years,except during the summer months. While the farm management approach had previously tended to give a back seat to home management, and, while the home economics approach adjusted living with little concern as to how the income was raised, Farm and Home became a blend of the two for the mutual benefit of all concerned. This new approach stressed not just the judicious use of land and other physical resources for optimum income, but stressed values so far seldom considered in farm management.

Farm and Home families have had the pleasure of not just benefiting directly from a discipline often considered by outsiders as too demanding, but also of contributing in no small way, by example and by giving assistance to others, in the rapid adoption throughout the district of most of the recommended practices for sound agriculture and the development of family living. Thousands of individuals, within and outside the district, alone or in organized groups, visited and profited from the program.

Much credit must be given here to the Alberta Department of Agriculture for allowing its early DA's a great deal of latitude in the way they operated. I personally saw the DA as an educator, but above all as a planner and the central co-ordinator of all district activities designed to improve the conditions of the people on the land and of the communities which existed to serve them. For example, the installation of the telephone, rural electrification and the improvement of roads and schools fell as much into the domain of DA's as agri-

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Thoughts Of Early Agricultural Development In the Athabasca District (cont'd)

cultural short courses, 4-H clubs and new agricultural practices.

Most policies offered by the provincial and federal departments of agriculture as well as by municipalities and the commercial sector were tapped to the degree that fitted the long-term plan and occasional emergencies. A great deal is owed to the hundreds of officials and others called upon to assist, and whose co-operation was usually very generous. The same was true of organizations inside and outside the district. In all this early development of agricultural regions, mention should not be omitted of the considerable, behind-the-scenes assistance which most DA's received from their wives who were so often left alone over long periods to bring up the family and to attend to the home making.

About the Author:

Born in Switzerland in 1904, George Godel graduated in 1925 from Fribourg University with a degree in agriculture. He emigrated to Canada in 1927 and received his M.Sc. at the University of Saskatchewan in 1931. He then worked as field crop specialist and subsequently as an agricultural representative at Melfort for the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Godel was appointed DA at Athabasca in 1942 where he served for 25 years. In 1966 he was transferred to extension headquarters as supervisor of district agriculturists and in 1967 he became program analyst in charge of program development for the extension division.

Following his retirement from Alberta Agriculture in 1970, Mr. Godel served in Zambia for CESO and subsequently for CIDA until 1974. He now resides in Edmonton with his wife Marie-Louise (fondly called Missie by acquaintances).

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

September 8, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRACE MINERAL PROBLEMS IN LIVESTOCK

by Robert Westra, P.Ag. Ph.D.
Ruminant Nutritionist, Alberta Agriculture

Although elemental sulphur and sulphur dioxide emissions from gas plants have been accused in some parts of Alberta of causing nutritional problems by lowering the selenium content of livestock feed, the problem is not that simple.

First of all, many areas of the province, especially those west of highway No.2 and north of highway No.16, routinely produce feeds that are low in selenium, with the result that selenium deficiencies have existed in cattle in those areas for a number of years. This situation appears to exist mainly in the grey wooded soil zone.

Secondly, trace minerals, which interact with a number of other minerals and trace minerals in an animal's body, can depress, and, in some cases, even cause death if any of them are deficient or out of balance relative to the level of the other minerals.

Among the factors that affect the selenium level in livestock feed are the selenium content of the soil and the availability of selenium in the soil to plants. The addition of sulphur to the soil, either in the form of an emission from a gas plant or in the form of a fertilizer can reduce the availability of selenium in the soil. However, it must be noted that some soils are deficient in sulphur and need additional sulphur to optimize plant growth.

Other factors that can affect the selenium content of livestock feeds are the amount and type of nitrogen fertilizer used and the amount of precipitation the crop receives during the growing season. In general, as plant yields increase, the selenium content of the feed decreases, which makes it difficult to define the effect that each variable has upon the selenium content of feed. When selenium is known to be deficient in an area, it should be added to cattle rations on a routine basis.

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Trace Mineral Problems In Livestock (cont'd)

A selenium deficiency most frequently causes a condition known as white muscle disease, but it can also cause low conception rates, abortions, stillborn calves, weak calves at birth, diarrhea, a stiff gait and general unthriftiness. However, except for white muscle disease, these conditions are more often caused by disease and nutritional deficiencies than by a selenium deficiency.

Selenium and sulphur are only two of 15 or more trace minerals that are essential to an animal's health. Deficiencies of copper, zinc, manganese and sulphur as well as selenium have been diagnosed in feed tests, which means that trace mineral problems being faced by livestock producers are complex. Some cattle herds in Alberta have been diagnosed, for example, as being deficient in both selenium and copper. Since the symptoms of a copper deficiency in the field may be quite similar to those of a selenium deficiency, the problem can be difficult to differentiate without an analysis of both feed and blood samples.

Trace mineral deficiencies in livestock can be diagnosed through a feed analysis and the observation of field symptoms. Liver, kidney, heart and brain samples from a recently dead animal can also help in the diagnosis of trace mineral deficiencies. Although a blood analysis will help in diagnosing a trace mineral deficiency, it does not always detect a subclinical deficiency.

The most effective way to correct a trace mineral deficiency is to add the trace mineral directly to an animal's diet. However, it should not be added indiscriminately. The feed should be analyzed for trace minerals, and a nutritionist or a veterinarian should be consulted before trace mineral supplementation is started. An improperly formulated or an improperly mixed mineral supplement can cause more problems than it solves. The trace minerals on the market today do not contain enough copper, zinc or manganese to correct these deficiencies in livestock.

September 8, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEEPER SOIL SAMPLING RECOMMENDED

The new fee of $10 now being charged by Alberta Agriculture's soil and feed testing laboratory for soil testing is intended to encourage more subsurface sampling.

Richard Leitch of the soil and feed testing laboratory says the $10 fee, which replaces the old fee of $2 per sample, covers the analysis of one surface sample (0" - 6") and two subsoil samples (6" - 12" and 12" - 24"). He points out that if only a surface soil sample is submitted for analysis, the fee will still be $10.

Mr. Leitch goes on to explain that subsoil sampling is of unquestionable value from the point of view of providing a better nutrient evaluation for the "fine tuning" of fertilizer recommendations. This is particularly true in the case of some of the more soluble nutrients like nitrogen and sulphur, which can move down into the subsoil layers. "This downward movement of nutrients," Mr. Leitch says, "is most pronounced in summerfallowed and partially summerfallowed fields and in the coarser textured or sandy soils, especially when the annual precipitation is above normal. Deeper sampling is also important for the diagnosis of soil and cropping problems."

Hand sampling equipment will not always be adequate for taking deeper samples, particularly when the soil is very dry, but power operated sampling equipment could do the job easily and quickly. It is not envisaged that every farmer should have his own power sampling equipment, but rather that one person in the district might invest in the necessary equipment and provide a custom soil sampling service for the rest of the farmers in the area. Apparently a number of people have already expressed an interest in this idea and more interest is anticipated.

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Deeper Soil Sampling Recommended (cont'd)

Inquiries regarding the type of equipment needed, costs, sampling and handling procedures and any other aspects involved in setting up a custom soil sampling service can be obtained from Richard Leitch, Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory, O.S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Box 8070, Station F, Edmonton, T6H 4P2.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE MANGE

Alberta cattlemen should be on the lookout for mange when adding new animals to their herds. If anyone suspects that he may have bought an animal that has mange, he should isolate it and then report it to a private or federal veterinarian.

Dr. M.W. Stone of the Alberta Agriculture animal health division's epidemiology section reports that sarcoptic mange has been diagnosed over the past year in the Lethbridge and Camrose areas, and that at least six herds have been quarantined by Agriculture Canada's food production and inspection branch.

According to Dr. Stone, there are four different families of mange that can infest cattle. They are sarcoptes, psoroptes, chorioptes and demodex. While both sarcoptic and psoroptic mange are reportable in Canada, the former is by far the most common type seen here. Chorioptic mange is also reportable, but herds are not quarantined.

Continuous itching, which occasionally becomes so severe that licking and rubbing becomes a constant pre-occupation of the animal, is the main clinical symptom of mange. Rubbing is accompanied by a loss of hair and the development of scabs over the raw surface. This is followed by a thickening and wrinkling of the skin. The areas most often affected are the inner surface of the thighs, the underside of the neck and brisket and around the root of the tail. Diagnosis is based on the demonstration of mites in scrapings. It should be pointed out, however, that several deep scrapings may have to be taken before mites are found.

Lindane and Coopertox are frequently used to dip or spray infested cattle. Two treatments are necessary, and both require a 28-day withdrawal period before the cattle can be slaughtered.

In Canada federal veterinarians are responsible for controlling cattle mange.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN LIVESTOCK PARTICIPATION

Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group will be sponsoring the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association's participation in the following American livestock shows during the next seven months.

		1980
Central Washington State Fair	Yakima, Washington	Sept.26 - Oct. 4
Fourteenth World Dairy Expo	Madison, Wisconsin	Oct. 1 - Oct. 5
Pacific International Livestock Show	Portland, Oregon	Oct. 11 - Oct. 18
Northern International Livestock Expo	Billings, Montana	Oct. 15 - Oct.18
Grand National Livestock Expo	San Francisco, California	Oct. 24 - Nov. 2
American Royal	Kansas City, Missouri	Nov. 8 - Nov. 22
North American International Livestock Expo	Louisville, Kentucky	Nov. 14 - Nov. 21
		1981
National Western Stock Show	Denver, Colorado	Jan. 15 - Jan. 24
Dixie National Livestock Show	Jackson, Missouri	Feb. 5 - Feb. 22
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	Houston, Texas	Feb. 25 - Mar. 8

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM

Have you heard of the Outstanding Young Farmer (OYF) Program? Do you know a young Alberta farmer or rancher that you would like to nominate for the OYF competition that is being held this fall to pick three winners from across Canada? The deadline for receipt of nominations is October 5.

The purpose of the program, which is new in Canada, but which has been going on in the United States for the last 25 years, is to focus attention on the contribution Canada's young farmers are making to the agricultural industry in this country. In other words, it is an attempt to bring enterprising young people to the forefront and to recognize their efforts in the never ending task of efficiently producing food for the world's population.

Nominees will be judged on the progress they have made in farming, the soil, water and energy conservation they practise and the contribution they have made to their community, province and/or nation. They must be between the ages of 18 and 39 and they must be bona fide farmers.

The winners will be honored at a banquet that will be held in conjunction with the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Association's Round Up '80 on November 5. They will have their trips paid to Round Up '80 and all their expenses will be paid while they are in Calgary. They will be presented with trophies and momentos, and participate in various events and tours during the week. In addition, they will be guests at a similar event being held in the United States to honor America's outstanding young farmers, and they will attend next summer's Calgary Stampede at the expense of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Association.

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Outstanding Young Farmer Program (cont'd)

Canada's OYF Program is being sponsored by the Canada Jaycees and the Calgary Jaycees in co-operation with the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Association.

Further details on the program and nomination forms can be obtained from any Jaycee member, the Bank of Montreal, district agriculturists or the Calgary Jaycees, 3rd Floor, 517 Centre Street South, Calgary, T2G 2C4. (Telephone: 266 - 5918). Completed nomination forms should be returned to the Calgary Jaycees at above address.

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September 8, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATERFOWL CROP DAMAGE PREVENTION AND COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Alberta's present method of combating waterfowl depredation is a two-pronged approach, which consists of damage prevention in severe damage areas and the availability of compensation for all damage that does occur.

The compensation part of the program was initiated in 1964. It replaced an earlier insurance program and was designed to compensate the cash outlay of any farmer who suffered losses from wildlife without his having to preregister or pay a premium. This compensation is still in effect today. It is funded by a wildlife damage fund, entirely financed from the proceeds of provincial wildlife certificates, which all hunters are required to have, and a matching contribution from the federal government.

Because compensation payments were so high, it was decided to try to combine compensation with a form of damage prevention. The latter was established on a three-year trial basis in 1970 in the Grande Prairie area where damage was consistently heavy. The provision of undisturbed feeding sites plus scaring techniques was so successful in manipulating the feeding patterns of waterfowl over fairly large areas that crop damage prevention was adopted as part of the program. By 1975 it had been extended to include 26 areas of the province where compensation payments had been the highest.

Ken Lungle, crop damage control co-ordinator with the fish and wildlife division of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, reports that both the prevention and compensation parts of the program have been jointly financed by the federal and provincial governments since 1972. He says the last federal-provincial agreement covering the 1979 operation allowed for a total of $400,000 to be spent on the prevention part of the program and $1.6 million to be spent on the compensation part.

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Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention And Compensation Program (cont'd)

Mr. Lungle also reports that Alberta farmers have received more than $9 million in compensation from the Wildlife Damage Fund, since 1964, and that estimates show that the prevention part of the program has prevented losses of $6 million dollars. He says Alberta hunters have made the main contribution to the financing of both the prevention and compensations parts of the program. Since 1964, they have contributed more than $5 million directly to the wildlife damage fund, and they have contributed a similar amount indirectly to the federal government's share by way of federal migratory bird permit purchases.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW BRUCELLOSIS REGULATIONS

Because of the drop in the number of Canadian cow herds under brucellosis quarantine, Agriculture Canada's food production and inspection branch has changed some of its regulations governing the movement of cattle in Canada. The number of herds under quarantine this summer is 167 compared with 269 last summer.

British Columbia and the four Atlantic provinces have been designated brucellosis-free regions, while the three prairie provinces have been grouped as one low-incidence region. Quebec and Ontario have each been designated low-incidence regions as well.

A new formal permit system affecting the movement of cattle between these designated regions has been implemented. Permits are now required for all cattle being moved from one region to another with the following exceptions:

- No permit is required for cattle being shipped from brucellosis-free regions to an adjoining low-incidence region. This means that cattle being moved from British Columbia to the prairie provinces or from the Atlantic provinces to Quebec do not need a permit.
- No permit is required for slaughter and feeder cattle being shipped from a low-incidence area into Ontario or Quebec.
- No permit is required for cattle being moved between Ontario and Quebec; but all cattle from Ontario and Quebec must be accompanied by a permit before being moved to any other region.

Permits for moving cattle are available from local Agriculture Canada veterinary inspection offices.

Although cattle from free-listed herds retain the same exemption from blood-testing as before, they are subject to the same permit requirements as other cattle.

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New Brucellosis Regulations (cont'd)

Cattle being moved between two brucellosis-free regions and cattle being moved from a brucellosis-free region to a low-incidence region do not require a blood test.

Since the United States recently recognized the brucellosis-free status of British Columbia and the four Atlantic provinces, cattle exported to the U.S. from these areas need only one negative brucellosis test within 30 days prior to their entry into that country. However, the cattle must be exported from a herd within the brucellosis-free region and must be shipped directly from the farm to the port of entry without crossing regional boundaries. If the cattle cross regional boundaries, the vehicle carrying them must be sealed with a Canadian government seal.

Cattle exported to the United States for immediate slaughter are not affected by the new regulations.

More information on the new brucellosis regulations can be obtained from Agriculture Canada veterinarians.

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September 8, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLE TREATMENT PAYS!

A return of from $35 to $45 on an investment of one dollar is a pretty good return on anybody's money.

This is the return that a cattleman who treats his cattle for warbles in the fall can expect to make, says Alberta Agriculture's livestock pest control specialist, Dr. Ali Khan.

He reports that 917 feeder calves (weighing an average of 415 pounds) that were treated with a commercially available pour-on, spot-on or spray in an experiment conducted at the University of Nebrasca, U.S.A., gained an average of 1.04 pounds per day compared with only 0.92 pounds per day for a similar group of untreated animals.

On this basis, if these animals had been pre-conditioned for 200 days before they went into the feedlot, they would have gained 24 extra pounds. It is not hard to calculate what these 24 extra pounds would be worth at today's prices.

Dr. Khan also reports that trials which he has conducted in Alberta show that treating cattle in October rather than in November produces much better results.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LATE FALL SPRAYING RECOMMENDED

Results obtained from numerous trials carried out over the past five years by Alberta Agriculture's urban and industrial weed control section show that Canada thistle, sow thistle and tansy can be effectively controlled prior to a severe killing frost if they are sprayed with picloram.

Stan Powers, supervisor of the urban and industrial section, reports excellent thistle control was achieved with 4 to 6 ounces of picloram per acre. Tansy was also controlled with 4 ounces of picloram, but consistently good control was achieved only when rates of 6 to 8 ounces were used. The spraying was done from September 15 to October 27 with identical results.

Mr. Powers says 2, 4-D and dicamba were also used in the trials, but that they did not provide effective control when applied late in the season.

In view of the above results, late fall is an ideal time for farmers to spray thistles and tansy along field perimeters, fencelines and in slough and other waste areas.

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September 8, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKETING OFFICER APPOINTED

Frances Cullen, commissioner of Alberta Agriculture's food marketing branch, has announced the appointment of Susan Klaver to the position of marketing officer.

Among Ms. Klaver's responsibilities will be the interchange of marketing information about Alberta's agricultural and food industries through the marketing chain — producers, processors, retailers, food service and consumers. She will also be responsible for helping companies and/or organizations to become more effective in their marketing efforts, and she will co-ordinate and help to promote Alberta food products on a local, provincial and national level.

Ms. Klaver was raised on a mixed farm in the Raymond area and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1977 with a B.Sc (home economics), having specialized in foods and nutrition. She did her dietetic internship at the Calgary General Hospital and became a registered dietitian in 1978.

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AGRI-NEWS

September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS ARRIVE FROM NEAR AND FAR TO BUY SEED

by J.E. Price

Let us go back to that fateful year 1939.

The late Charlie Linden had taken over as livestock commissioner with the Alberta Department of Agriculture, and he needed an assistant. He approached me to fill that position. At the time I was working in a party making an economic survey of the drier areas of the province. The study was being conducted by the Dominion Economics Branch and was headed by Dr. Andrew Stewart, who later became president of the University of Alberta.

Since my specialty was in the livestock field, I decided to transfer to the provincial Department of Agriculture, and work with Mr. Linden. Because my transfer to the livestock commissioner's office had to be gradual, I was assigned to the position of DA for the Edmonton — Edson area for the summer of 1939.

Mr. Elliott, who was in charge of DA's at that time, worked out a summer program. We decided that the main areas of attention would be the organization of swine clubs and the distribution of alfalfa seed. The Swine Club Program had a modest success. Two clubs were organized and carried through to achievement days in the fall. It was with the Alfalfa Seed Program that I had to endure my most embarrassing moments.

The Alfalfa Seed Program was set up to distribute seed for demonstration plots to as many farmers as possible in the area. To this end, farmers were encouraged to apply for 25 pounds of seed to be sown on their own farms. A few well established farmers who were interested in growing alfalfa were permitted to apply for the 25 pounds of seed and to purchase additional stocks for their own use, which, in some cases, amounted to from 200 to 300 pounds.

The applications were received and the distribution of seed was arranged to be made at Sangudo on a Tuesday. The farmers arrived from near and far but not the seed. Since

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Farmers Arrive From Near And Far To Buy Seed (cont'd)

the next train would not be arriving until Saturday, I phoned the seed branch office in Edmonton to make sure the seed would arrive on Saturday's train. I was assured that the shipment would be personally supervised and that it would be in Sangudo on Saturday morning.

I asked the farmers to come again for the Saturday train, and assured them the seed would be there. Saturday morning came and the farmers came, but alas – no seed! Needless to say, there was not a hole in the road big enough for me to hide in, and so I got a tongue lashing from several farmers who wanted to get their seed planted. Finally, on the following Tuesday the farmers and the seed both arrived. So now you know the rocky start alfalfa growing had in the Sangudo – Mayerthorpe area.

As you may or may not know, Captain Linden joined his regiment with the outbreak of war, which, with other units, formed a contingent of about 3,000 men that was sent to bolster the defences of Hong Kong against the Japanese. He did not return from that assignment.

The loss of Captain Linden left my future up in the air. I was sent to the DA office in Camrose on the death of H.W. Scott in the fall of 1939. Later I relieved in the DA offices of Berwyn and Red Deer and spent my winters as an instructor in animal husbandry at Olds, where I also acted as dean of the boys residence.

In the spring of 1942, I joined the Canadian Navy. I was more fortunate than Captain Linden. I returned to Alberta at the end of the war.

About the Author:

After the war the author spent a year farming at Stettler and then went into a business supply agency with his brother. He is now retired and operates a small farm at Priddis where he grows barley and hay and keeps a few horses.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOLVES AND CATTLE

A wolf in northern Alberta being fitted with a radio collar for research purposes.

While a lone wolf or a pair of wolves may kill a limited number of cattle, it appears that a pack of wolves normally pays less attention to these animals.

This is one of the findings in an ongoing study that was started in 1976 to determine the interaction that takes place between wolves and livestock, particularly cattle, so that Alberta Fish and Wildlife can more effectively understand and control the wolf-livestock conflict. Although several indepth studies have been carried out on the interaction between wolves and big game, the Alberta study is the first to emphasize the wolf-livestock relationship.

Because most wolf attacks on cattle in this province take place on grazing leases in the Peace River region and in a few other forest-agricultural fringe areas, the study site is located southwest of Valleyview in the Peace River region. It includes seven grazing leases, which vary in size from about 5 km^2 to 53 km^2, and which are adjacent to or near the Simonette River. The mean annual density of cattle on these leases during the May through October grazing period is 14 - 18 per km^2.

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The Relationship Between Wolves And Cattle (cont'd)

The study is being sponsored by Alberta Fish and Wildlife in co-operation with Alberta Agriculture and is under the direction of Fish and Wildlife biologist Ron Bjorge. The procedure involves capturing wolves in padded traps or snares, putting radio collars around their necks and then releasing them. So far 25 wolves, all captured near or on the grazing leases, have been fitted with these collars. The wolves are then monitored from an aircraft one to three times a week to determine the number in the pack, the distance they travel, the length of time they spend near cattle as opposed to other sources of food, whether or not their territories change when the cattle are removed from the lease in the fall and many other pertinent facts about their behaviour and biology.

Cattle going on to a grazing lease in the spring are checked and categorized so that the rate of mortality for each age group can be recorded. They are checked again in the fall when they leave the lease and are examined for signs of having been attacked by wolves or bears. They are also checked regularly during the summer for signs of harrassment or attack, and all reports of attacks or deaths from any cause are analyzed. Similar data are collected and analyzed on big game kills. Wolf scats (fecal deposits) are also collected (on a year-round basis) and analyzed to determine the type of animals the wolves are feeding on.

Information to date shows that about 15 per cent of the wolf population in the study area consists of single animals. The rest of the wolves are in packs made up of from two to 13 individuals. The single wolves appear to be relatively nomadic and to travel over the territories of several packs. Some travel as far as 80 km in one or two days.

Each pack occupies a territory that is basically exclusive to the other packs, and summer territories are considerably smaller than winter ones. The former are about 40 km^2 per wolf compared with about 70 km^2 per wolf in the winter months.

The Alberta study also indicates that wolves in packs do not appear to spend very much time near cattle. They are found on grazing leases as often from November to April,

The Relationship Between Wolves And Cattle (cont'd)

when no cattle are present, as they are during the summer grazing period. The logical conclusion to be drawn from these data would be that, in general, wolf packs are not very dependent upon cattle for their food. However, exceptions to this situation seem to occur when a wolf has its den and raises its pups close to a concentration of cattle. The study showed that single wolves and wolf pairs spent considerably more time near cattle and are more dependent upon them for their food. This is probably because one or two wolves on their own are often poor hunters.

Wolves depend mainly upon moose, elk and deer for their food during all periods of the year. From 12.5 to 17.5 per cent of the scats collected during the summer contained remains of beef compared with zero per cent during the winter when the cattle are in farmyards in settled areas. However, since wolves are scavengers, some of the beef remains found in the scats probably come from the carcasses of animals that have died from causes other than predation.

Over the past four years, total annual cattle losses in the study area during the summer grazing period have varied from just under 3 per cent to just over 3.5 per cent. However, on individual leases, they have ranged from zero per cent to almost 9 per cent, and calf losses in the study area have averaged close to 6 per cent.

Of the 33 animals that have died of known causes on the grazing leases under study, 13 were killed by wolves, 3 were killed by bears and 17 died from such things as bloat, pneumonia, heart failure, etc.

Other study results show that wolves may take one or several animals from a grazing lease, and that they may attack cattle on one lease one year and then not bother them the following year. Wolves may sometimes kill more than a few animals in a specific area, but even in these situations, they never come close to wiping out the herd.

The Relationship Between Wolves And Cattle (cont'd)

On the basis of research data obtained to date, Mr. Bjorge believes the ideal way control wolf predation would be to remove specific problem wolves and wolves from specific problem areas rather than to kill wolves indiscriminately in all areas. He also believes that cattle losses from wolves can be minimized if cattlemen put only healthy animals on pasture, check them frequently during the summer and take them off pasture as soon as possible in the fall when there is a wolf problem in the area.

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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE .

CUSTOM RATES FOR GRAIN HARVESTING

The joint Alberta Agriculture and Unifarm sponsored Agricultural Input Monitoring System (AIMS) has provided the following information on custom rates for grain harvesting.

The AIMS information is gathered on the basis of a "good neighbor" rate and a "specialist custom operator" rate. The survey indicates that the rate charged by the specialist custom operator is generally higher than that charged by a neighbor who does a little custom work after his own work is finished.

A custom operator must cover his fixed costs (depreciation, interest and insurance) as well as his variable costs (fuel, labor and repairs) plus make a profit, while a farmer who does a bit of custom work is usually interested in covering his variable costs only, plus making some profit. The higher rate charged by a specialist custom operator may be more than worth it if he will come in when the crop is ready and get it off in good time. Timeliness losses at harvest time can be very high.

Following are the custom rates for grain harvesting reported by the 1979 AIMS survey:

Swathing

Range:	$2 - $5 per acre
Most Common:	$3.50 - $4 per acre

Combining

Most custom combining rates were reported on a per acre basis rather than on a per hour basis, which has been the case in previous years. When charging on a per hour basis, the capacity of the combine must be taken into account.

Range:	$ 7 - $15 per acre or $45 - $75 per hour
Most Common:	$10 - $11 per acre or $60 - $75 per hour

- (cont'd) -

Custom Rates For Grain Harvesting (cont'd)

Trucking

Range:	6¢ - 20¢ per bushel $1 - $1.25 per loaded-mile
Most Common:	15¢ - 20¢ per bushel $1 - $1.25 per loaded-mile

There was one charge of $50 per hour reported for a 1,200-bushel capacity semi-trailer unit.

Drying

Range:	10¢ - 20¢ per bushel or $20 - $50 per hour
Most Common.	17¢ - 20¢ per bushel or $20 - $25 per hour

3¢ - 4¢ per bushel extra if the grain has to be dried down more than 4-6 points.

The custom rates reported in this article are based on a survey conducted in September, 1979. Since machinery and fuel prices have risen over the past year, at least a small increase in custom grain harvesting rates should be expected this fall.

The publication "Farm Machinery Costs As A Guide To Custom Rates Spring/1980" is a valuable guide for deciding what to charge or what to pay for various custom operations. It is available from district agriculturist offices, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, TOM 1PO and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107th Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

For detailed information on custom rates, contact John Arnold, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, TOM 1PO. (Telephone: 556-8421).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CERTIFIED FEEDER PROGRAM

by Dr. F.P. Baker
Alberta Agriculture

The first sale of certified preimmunized and preconditioned calves to be held in Canada will take place at the Vold, Jones and Vold Auction Market in Ponoka on November 18, 1980.

All the calves will be either preimmunized or fully preconditioned according to specifications set out in the Alberta Certified Feeder Program. They will be accompanied by a certificate, completed by a veterinarian, certifying that all conditions of the program have been met.

Producers may contribute calves to the sale under the preimmunization option or the full preconditioning option of the program.

Preconditioning Program

Preconditioning involves scheduled weaning, feeding, vaccinations, external parasite control and trough and bunk adjustment for a minimum period of 30 days.

- Calves enrolled in the program must be owned for 60 days by the operator who is preconditioning them.
- The calves must be at least four months old before being vaccinated.
- Castration and dehorning must be done at least three weeks before sale.
- A blackleg vaccination must be given at least three weeks before sale.
- IBR and PI_3 vaccination must be given by a licensed veterinarian at least three weeks before sale.
- Warble grub treatment must be done at least two weeks before sale.
- The calf must have been weaned at least 30 days before sale.

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Alberta Certified Feeder Program (cont'd)

- Green ear tags must be applied by a licensed veterinarian.
- Calves must be accompanied by properly completed certificates at sale time.

Preimmunization Option

Preimmunization includes all of the above mandatory requirements except that calves are not weaned and are identified by white ear tags applied by a veterinarian and are accompanied by a completed certificate.

Alberta certified feeder cattle that have received more treatments than required under the program will have the extra treatments listed on their certificate.

Preconditioning is a management technique designed to help calves withstand the stresses that accompany the change from a farm or ranch environment to a feedlot. Losses suffered while moving calves to feedlots are frequently major problems. They are caused by shrinkage, deaths, treatment costs, extra days on feed and reduced feed efficiency and rate of gain.

The Alberta Certified Feeder Program is designed to recognize producers who are seriously attempting to improve the health and performance of their cattle. The goal of the program is to improve performance and minimize sickness and death losses normally experienced by cattle going into feedlots.

The performance of Alberta certified calves will be monitored during their stay in the feedlot in an effort to determine whether preconditioning really pays. Some cattlemen have been using variations of the present preconditioning program for years.

It is hoped that the Ponoka sale, modelled after similar ones in Iowa, U.S.A, will indicate whether or not an expansion of the program is justified. Preconditioning programs

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Certified Feeder Program (cont'd)

have been in effect in Iowa since the late 1960's, and approximately 400,000 certified calves were sold throughout the state in 1979-80.

The Ponoka sale is sponsored by the Ponoka Calf Preconditioning Society and Alberta Agriculture. If you would like information on the sale you should contact Rick Williams, who is with Alberta Agriculture in Ponoka, or Dr. Terry Church of the animal health division of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton. Anyone who is interested in setting up a similar program somewhere else in the province should contact these same people.

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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE WARBLE INFESTATION DROPS

Results of a survey conducted by Alberta Agriculture personnel earlier this year at 11 packing plants show that 12 per cent of the carcasses were infested with one or more warbles compared with 44 per cent in 1968.

Dr. Ali Khan, pest control specialist with the department's beef cattle and sheep branch, reports that this year's survey, which was co-ordinated with the Meat Packers Council of Canada Survey for the Western Provinces, was the first extensive survey since 1968.

He says this dramatic drop in the warble infestation level over the years can be attributed to progressive farmers who have continually treated their cattle in the fall with a systemic insecticide and to the persistent efforts of agricultural field-men and regional and provincial enforcement personnel who have provided cattle-men with up-to-date management technology. He believes that a further reduction in warbles can be achieved with the continued co-operation of all sectors of the cattle industry.

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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN AERATION

by Jerome Manchur
Alberta Agriculture's District Agriculturist at Ryley

There has been a lot of interest lately in grain aeration. Aeration is the use of low air flow rates to cool grain and eliminate temperature and moisture differences in the storage bin. The purpose of an aeration system is to maintain the lowest practical temperature and the least temperature variation within the stored grain.

Aeration is not a grain drying system and should not be considered as such. Under good conditions, some drying will occur during aeration, and if the aeration system is run long enough, significant drying can occur. Too short a fan time is the major source of problems when aerating stored grain. In fact, shutting off the fan too soon may increase temperature variations within the bin, rather than reduce them. Therefore, you could be putting moisture into the grain rather than taking it out.

Start aerating as soon as the grain is in the bin. Run the fan long enough to cool the grain to within 5° C of the average outside temperature.

Air can be moved either up or down through the grain. The main advantage of moving air down, and removing it from the bottom, is to minimize roof condensation when aerating warm grain in cold weather. If air is moved upwards condensation may appear. Condensation can be reduced by aerating warm grain before the weather gets too cold.

It is best to move air upward through grain during the summer when outside temperatures are warm, rather than drawing hot air down through the grain.

Aeration used for grain drying is a race to get the grain dried before it spoils. The key is to move the drying zone through the top of the bin within the allowable storage time. At higher moisture levels and temperatures, the allowable time for drying is less. Generally,

- (cont'd) -

Grain Aeration (cont'd)

the minimum flow time is doubled for each 2 per cent increase in initial grain moisture level, and is reduced by 0.5 per cent for each month's delay in harvest.

Grain at the top of the bin dries last and is, therefore, most critical. The more air delivered, the better.

The main problem is not to dry if the outside humidity is too high. Control gauges can be installed to automatically shut the fans off and on.

Grain aeration is certainly a very good idea, but both the pros and cons should be weighed before a lot of dollars are invested in such a system. Like most things, if grain aeration is used as it was intended to be used, it will be a real help to farmers.

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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LARGE DIAMETER SCREENED WATER WELLS

A new technique developed in southern Manitoba has been very successful in excluding formation sand and quicksand from bored wells. In fact, its success rate has approached 100 per cent in the more than 150 wells that have been drilled in formations in southern Manitoba that have ranged from fine, silty sand to coarse sand and fine gravel.

According to Andrew Livingstone of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and field services branch at Barrhead, the technique, which has been used in small diameter (4-6-inch) wells for many years, has now been adapted for use in large diameter wells. It involves the use of a 24 or 30-inch diameter sand screen which is installed in the casing column. The space between the borehole and the casing is packed with selected material, while that portion of the space adjacent to the sand screen is packed with fractured sand. Careful analysis of the formation material is necessary to ensure the correct combination of sand screen slot size and fractured sand size range.

"The accurate placement of the screen and casing column is made possible," Mr. Livingstone says, "by keeping the borehold open during drilling." This is accomplished by keeping it full of water to provide a hydraulic head on the formation. An agent to increase surface tension, "Revert", is used in the drilling water to give additional stabilization to the borehole and to speed up the drilling process by reducing the friction between the borehole and the drilling bucket.

Mr. Livingstone says the cost of the sand screen, over and above the normal drilling and casing costs, is usually less than $1,000.

The above technique should prove invaluable in many areas of Alberta where the only suitable formations containing ground water are shallow sands and quicksands that yield

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Large Diameter Screened Water Wells (cont'd)

less than five gallons of water per minute under the various methods that have been tried to exclude formation material from large diameter bored wells. "They have all greatly reduced well efficiency and water yield," Mr. Livingstone says.

Further information on this topic can be obtained from Andrew Livingstone, Box 1540, Barrhead, Alberta, TOG OEO.

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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALIFORNIA FIRM CONSTRUCTING PLANT IN OLDS

Banner Gelatin Products Corporation of Chatsworth, California, the second largest soft elastic gelatin (SEG) encapsulator in the world, has commenced construction on a 26,000 square foot plant at Olds, Alberta.

The new plant will use what is considered to be superior technology to manufacture and fill SEG capsules with food supplements, vitamins and pharmaceutical materials destined for markets in Canada, Europe and the Far East.

It is expected that the plant, under a new identity and Canadian management, will fill 85 per cent of its anticipated 42 jobs with people from the Olds area. Training will be done in Olds or at Chatsworth with the appropriate assistance from the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission.

The availability of financial assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement was an important factor in the establishment of the plant at Olds. Banner Gelatin Products Corporation received $635,782 under the terms of the agreement for the new facility, which will cost an estimated $4,415,150.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance, equally cost shared and jointly administered, is designed to encourage the establishment, expansion or modernization of nutritive processing facilities in Alberta.

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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KNOW YOUR FARM MACHINERY COSTS

Should I trade in that old tractor or give it a major overhaul? How much is that new combine going to cost to own and operate?

Finding the correct answer to such questions can have a considerable impact on farming profitability since the cost of owning and operating farm machinery is responsible for an ever increasing portion of total farm costs. At the present time, these costs are second only to land costs as a production input.

To help farmers answer some of their machinery cost questions, Alberta Agriculture has released a publication entitled "Know Your Farm Machinery Costs". It and the accompanying machinery cost worksheets can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, TOM 1P0 or the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL IRRIGATION

This is a good time for irrigation farmers to check their soil moisture and, if necessary, irrigate after harvest, says Dennis Roll, irrigation specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Some advantages of fall irrigation when the soil moisture is low, (if available moisture in the root zone has been depleted by 50% or more) are as follows:

- It will ensure an adequate supply of moisture for the germination of next year's crops, and for the activation of soil incorporated herbicides in the spring.
- It may reduce the irrigation water requirements for next year's crops.
- It is good insurance against water availability being restricted next year and against a sprinkler system breakdown during the growing season.
- It makes possible the replenishment of the entire root zone, which is often difficult to achieve during the growing season with pivot sprinkler systems.
- Water supplies are generally adequate in irrigation districts at this time of year because the peak demand of summer has passed.

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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN CONFETTI

Have you ever used grain confetti to mark your grain? If you are worried about your grain being stolen this winter, it might be a good idea to get some.

Grain confetti, as its name implies, is like confetti except that each of the tiny pieces of paper has an identity number printed on it. This number enables the police to positively identify the grain if it is stolen.

You can buy enough confetti to mark 40,000 to 50,000 bushels of grain for $50 to $60, and you will receive posters to put on your bins that state that the grain has been marked and is registered with the police.

The confetti is mixed in with the grain as it is being augered into the bin. Because so little is used, the grain can be fed to livestock and will be accepted by elevators.

Grain confetti can be obtained from Biggar Independent Publishers Ltd., Biggar, Saskatchewan (306-948-334) and Rosetown Publishing Co. Ltd., Rosetown, Saskatchewan (306-882-2232).

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Alberta
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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MID-WESTERN FOOD SERVICES SHOW

"Alberta Presents" is the theme for a display in which 22 Alberta food processors will be participating in Western Canada's largest food service show, scheduled to take place in Edmonton on September 30 and October 1.

The Mid-Western Food Services Show offers an opportunity for food manufacturers to display and sell their products to members of the foodservice industry. Because Canadians are eating more meals away from home, restaurants represent a growing market for food processors. In recognition of this fact, Alberta Agriculture will, for the first time, assist Alberta companies with their displays at the Mid-Western Food Services Show. The department's food marketing branch will co-ordinate the Alberta display.

Among the Alberta companies participating in the show will be manufacturers of snack foods, vegetable products, ethnic foods, beverages and baked goods. Some of these companies are already established in the foodservice market, while for others the Mid-Western Food Services Show will be their first exposure to the foodservice market.

About 3,000 representatives of the Alberta Restaurant and Foodservices Association are expected to attend, along with buyers from the other western provinces and the northwestern United States. A total of 150 companies will display products and services at the show, which will not be open to the public.

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September 15 , 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"FOOD PRESERVATION – A PROBLEM SOLVING GUIDE"

A new publication entitled "Food Preservation – A problem Solving Guide" has been released by Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch.

Food preservation – freezing, canning and jam and pickle making – has become more popular in recent years. Usually the preserved food is delicious, but occasionally something goes wrong. This publication tells you what to do, whether the food can be safely eaten or whether it should be destroyed. It also explains why the problem may have occurred.

It answers many questions which home economists are frequently asked. For example, "How long should I keep food in the freezer?" "When the freezer has been accidently unplugged, is it safe to refreeze the food?" "Why was liquid drawn out of the jars of canned peas?" "Why did my home canned corn turn brown?" "Why did mold form on my crabapple jelly?" "Why were my dill pickles hollow?"

"Food Preservation – A Problem Solving Guide" complements other publications. It does not give complete instructions. For complete instructions use a good cookbook or ask for "Freezing Foods", "Canning Canadian Fruits and Vegetables" and "Jams, Jellies and Pickles".

All these publications are available from your local district home economist or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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September 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRUIT LEATHERS

Fruit leathers are a good way to use up your crabapples, apples and other surplus fruit, says Joanne Molesky, Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Three Hills.

These delicious snacks are nutritious and very popular with kids. Since the natural sugars become more concentrated when fruit dries, it is not necessary to add much, if any, sugar.

Ms. Molesky recommends putting 500 mL of cooked fruit in a blender and blending it until it is about the consistency of a fine applesauce. If necessary add sugar to taste and water to get the right consistency.

Line a jelly roll pan with plastic wrap, leaving several cm at each end, and spread the fruit mixture evenly in the pan. Ms. Molesky says the mixture should be dried at 60° C for five to six hours or until it "feels like suede" and will peel off the plastic wrap. Then cool it, roll it up and store it.

To serve fruit leathers, simply snip off pieces with a pair of scissors.

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September 22, 1980

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORIGIN OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AI UNIT IN THE LATE 1950'S

by L.T. Jones
Animal Science Instructor, Fairview College

I joined the Alberta extension service as a "transferee" from the Fairview Agricultural School in 1958 as assistant to Bob Price, DA in Red Deer. The fire at Fairview in March 1958 caused the school to be closed, and several of the instructors were taken into the DA ranks. My introduction to the service at Red Deer was to track down boars on loan to producers from the Canada Department of Agriculture.

The activites of the better known DA's such as Howard Fulcher at Olds, Walter McNary at Lacombe and Larry Williams at Camrose were evident as they organized rural study groups in farm management. Throughout Alberta, DA's were being encouraged by Fred Newcombe and Stu Graham to lead producers into management study groups. The old role of the DA who went out to the farm and castrated pigs, measured dugouts and helped gardeners slay the bugs on their cranberry bushes was rapidly fading. I came onto the scene of extension after the "fun" part of the job was past.

In May 1958 I was transferred to Grande Prairie as DA and stepped into the growing workload created by my predecessor Jerry Moffat and his assistant Merv Jaque. The usual activities prevailed, and I studiously regarded the growing movement that encouraged DA staff to become evening teachers of farm management. The evening meetings in the district, which stretched in a strip about 25 miles wide, from the B.C. border on the west, to Snipe Lake 150 miles to the east, became tremendously time consuming. During October of 1958, there were 26 night meetings dealing with everything from 4-H to county policies.

Probably because I viewed my DA career as being only an interlude pending the re-opening of the Fairview School, I decided to concentrate my efforts on projects somewhat

- (cont'd) -

Origin Of The Grande Prairie AI Unit In The Late 1950's (cont'd)

less frustrating than conducting night sessions in farm management. Several dairymen, particularly Bob Heller and Clarence Nelson from Beaverlodge, and Fred Drysdale from Grand Prairie, were keenly interested in forming an artificial insemination (AI) unit in the County of Grande Prairie. I abandoned my attempts as a "community organizer" and spent the winter of 1958-59, and a good deal of the summer and fall of 1959 attempting to provide the kind of encouragement needed to get an AI unit off the ground. Much of the work was public relations, with a view to encouraging producer acceptance of the idea, and to finding that magic number of 1000 cows for annual insemination. Hundreds of hours were spent talking to producers throughout the county to convince them that AI would not produce freaks and, most particularly, would not cause cows to dry up. Gallons of coffee were stowed away at old Joe's Cafe near the DA office while planning strategy, and many miles were travelled with Messrs. Drysdale, Heller and Nelson to the large sophisticated Edmonton AI units for ideas and moral support.

Constant encouragement by Fred Newcombe kept me going. I recall at one point during the great AI push, there was a stack of 36 parking tickets that I had collected on the windshield of the 1958 Dodge government-issue car from the zealous commissionaires in Grande Prairie. The city appealed to Edmonton, and finally Fred Newcombe was delegated to deal with the city on my behalf. I vividly recall Fred's letter to the City of Grande Prairie traffic department, of which I received a copy. "This lad was recently married and has become quite forgetful." For all I know those 36 traffic tickets still repose on the window ledge in the Grande Prairie office.

The great day in late 1959 arrived when the Grande Prairie AI unit hired an inseminator, stocked an office and a nitrogen tank, and went into business. An even greater day occurred in August 1960, when the call went out for instructors to return to the newly re-opened Agricultural School at Fairview.

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Origin Of The Grande Prairie AI Unit In The Late 1950's (cont'd)

I view the job of DA with mixed feelings now: respect for fellow agriculturists who can deal with a very frustrating job, and envy for their constant contact with the men and women operating Alberta farms.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

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September 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL RYE NEEDS SEED TREATMENT

Farmers can get better yields of fall rye if they treat the seed with a protective fungicide, advises a recent Agriculture Canada news release.

"Fall rye is susceptible to fungal pathogens that cause such diseases as stem smut and seedling blight," explains K.J. Degenhardt, a cereal pathologist at Agriculture Canada's research station in Lethbridge, Alta. "These cause poorer stands and, ultimately, lower yields."

Through proper treatment with recommended fungicides, these losses can be avoided.

Research has shown that fall rye stands can be doubled when a fungicide is used. In tests carried out across western Canada during 1977-78, seed treatment increased yields of fall rye by more than a quarter tonne per hectare, or about 4.3 bushels per acre on average.

"At current prices, these higher yields are worth 10 times the cost of treating the seeds," Dr. Degenhardt says.

Cougar fall rye, one of the most popular varieties grown on the prairies, is highly susceptible to stem smut. The disease can, however, be controlled by using the fungicide, carbathiin.

"Or farmers can combat stem smut by growing Kodiak, a variety that is resistant to the disease," Dr. Degenhardt says. "But even Kodiak should be treated with a recommended fungicide for the control of seed decay and seedling blight."

Surveys of seed-cleaning plants show that treatment of fall rye has increased five-fold during the past few years.

"However, 80 per cent of the crop is still not treated and consequently, a lot of fall rye is being needlessly lost to diseases," Dr. Degenhardt says.

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Fall Rye Needs Seed Treatment (cont'd)

"Seed treatment is an economical way for farmers to increase their productivity through better fall rye yields. Farmers should consider treating their rye seed before planting this fall."

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CORRECTION

The date for the sale of certified pre-immunized and pre-conditioned calves as reported in the September 15, 1980 issue of Agri-News (page 9, first paragraph) was incorrect. Please note the correct date is November 8, 1980.

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September 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STORAGE ROTS OF VEGETABLES

by Dr. Ronald Howard
Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks

A little forethought by commercial growers and home gardeners will go a long way towards minimizing vegetable storage losses. Following is a list of some of the most important storage rots of vegetables grown in Alberta along with suggested control measures.

- Bacterial soft rot is generally caused by species of *Erwinia* bacteria and is a widespread and destructive problem in many types of stored vegetables. Losses may occur in the field or garden or in transit or storage or at the market. To control this disease avoid cracking, cutting or bruising vegetables during harvest. Disinfect harvesting and storage equipment suspected of being contaminated with the soft rot organism. Use bactericidal agents in hydrocoolers and wash water. Maintain storage facilities at the lowest temperature compatible with maintenance of product quality.

For a detailed discussion of bacterial soft rot in vegetables refer to the Agri-Fax factsheet entitled "Bacterial Soft Rot of Carrots" (FS258/635-2).

- Grey mold rot *(Botrytis)* is a serious fungal disease which attacks many vegetables in both home and commercial storage facilities. Decayed tissues may be fairly firm or semi-watery and greyish-tan to brownish in color. Grey fungus growth (mold) and greyish-brown, velvety spore masses are signs of this disease. The best way to control it is to follow good sanitation practices during harvesting and storage. Avoid wounding or bruising the produce as much as possible. If a disease outbreak occurs, lower the atmosphere humidity in the storage facility.

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Storage Rots Of Vegetables (cont'd)

- *Rhizopus* rot is characterized by decayed tissues which are water-soaked and often 'leak' water. The decay is softer than that caused by grey mold rot but is not as soft as that caused by bacterial soft rot. Coarse threads of fungus growth (mycelium) and black spore heads develop under moist conditions.

  To control the disease, avoid injuring or bruising the vegetables during harvesting and post-harvesting handling. Reduce the storage temperature below (15° C) for crops that can withstand it.

- Watery soft rot *(Sclerotinia)* is also characterized by decayed tissues which are water-soaked, slightly pinkish or brownish-tan, very soft and usually very watery in the later stages. The outer surface of infected vegetables may have a fine white to dingy cottony mold growth and large, oval, black bodies called sclerotia.

  To control this disease use the appropriate sanitary practices when harvesting and storing the produce. Cull material that has discolored or dead portions. Do not store vegetables known to have been infected prior to harvest.

Consult the Agri-Fax factsheet entitled "Cottony Soft Rot of Carrots" (FS258/635-1) for more details about this disease and its control.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEASONAL NEEDLE YELLOWING OF EVERGREENS

Many homeowners will notice yellow foliage on some of their evergreen trees, especially pines and cedars during September and October. The color change is often dramatic and a natural reaction is to suspect that a disease or insect has attacked the tree. While such attacks can cause foliage yellowing, they are not the major cause of the discoloration which occurs in the fall. Rather, we are observing a natural senescence or "autumn shed" as many arborists call this phenomenon.

Evergreen trees appear green throughout the year because they do not lose all their foliage at one time. Annual leaf or needle drop often goes unnoticed because new growth conceals the old foliage on the inside of the tree that has turned yellow or brown. Although leaf drop on evergreens usually takes place gradually, there are occasions when many leaves discolor simultaneously. Most species of spruce and pine, and certain types of cedars and junipers, shed their older foliage in fall. Scots, lodgepole and Austrian pines retain their needles for 3-4 years, while spruce and fir keep theirs for a longer time. Pines occasionally drop a few of their three-year old needles in late spring or early summer. Seasonal yellowing may not be visible unless one looks for it on the inner branches.

Any factor which decreases the vigor of an evergreen tree or places it under stress will cause premature shedding. Some examples are wet or poorly drained soils, drought, transplant shock, poor fertility, spider mites, soil salinity, winter injury and herbicide damage. The implementation of appropriate remedial measures generally results in a resumption of normal growth, but the inability of evergreens to regenerate lost foliage may leave the plants looking deformed and "scraggly" for several years.

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks advises seeking the advice of a specialist if you are confused between seasonal yellowing and various insect and disease problems.

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September 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE'S NUTRITION AT SCHOOL

September brings all the small fry back to school and for Alberta Agriculture's district home economists, September brings fall programs, one of which is nutrition at school.

Nutrition at school, explains Linda St. Onge, assistant food and nutrition specialist for Alberta Agriculture, is an ongoing nutrition education program aimed at children in grades 1 - 6, their parents and teachers. It is administered by home economists in the department's home economics branch and the food marketing branch.

The program incorporates nutrition education into the classroom curricula, and is reinforced by a child-sized food sample served about three times weekly, over 12 weeks. This can introduce the children to new foods, often grown or processed right in Alberta, which they may never have tried. For example, popular food samples are fresh vegetable pieces — broccoli, turnip, rutabaga. The teacher discusses how and where the vegetables are grown. She could utilize a classroom activity to point out that the vegetables belong to the fruit and vegetable food group, which provides vitamin C. Another classroom activity or discussion might be used to teach about the function of vitamin C in the body, while another time, the activity could focus on how many daily servings from that food group are needed, and how they could be included throughout the day.

The home economist sends newsletters to the parents offering information about the program, and what the children are learning about nutrition and wise food choices. Thus parents are included in the nutrition at school program.

Interested elementary schools in Alberta may apply if they wish to participate in nutrition at school. Before the program begins in the school, the teachers attend a 2½-hour workshop given by the home economists. At the workshop the teachers are provided with

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Alberta Agriculture's Nutrition At School (cont'd)

basic nutrition information, as well as classroom teaching resources. The home economist hires a person for several hours a week to prepare the food samples, leaving the teacher free to concentrate on the nutrition message.

This approach helps to reach the goals of having the children and their parents develop positive eating habits and learn about their nutritive needs, and enables teachers to incorporate nutrition into the classroom curricula.

Nutrition at school has been implemented so far in about half of Alberta's elementary schools. It is an interface between Alberta Agriculture and the community, and has been a very successful and popular program.

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September 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL SANITATION FOR DISEASE CONTROL

The time to start a disease control program for next year's fruit, vegetable and ornamental plantings is now because many plant diseases and insect pests survive the winter on plant refuse.

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, says the removal of dead plants and plant parts that are no longer productive will greatly reduce the carryover of diseases. Common vegetable diseases which can be reduced by a fall sanitation program include white and grey molds, bacterial soft rot, powdery mildew and other leaf spots and blights and root rot. Such diseases as fireblight, powdery mildew, cane blights and leaf spots can be controlled, for the most part, on tree and bush fruits by thorough sanitation. Control recommendations for diseases of ornamentals such as powdery mildew, botrytis blight, bulb corm and tuber rots and rusts invariably stress the importance of sanitation.

Although disease problems are more likely to build up in small gardens where crop rotation is limited or not feasible, the removal of infested plant debris will generally delay the development of a serious disease problem. If compost is being made, it should not be spread before the plant debris is completely decomposed because the composting process destroys many disease organisms. If disease problems have been severe, it is advisable to destroy plant refuse rather than use it for composting.

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September 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASTRATION WITHOUT SURGERY

It is now possible to castrate male animals with hormones.

Scientists at the University of Idaho College of Agriculture in the United States have achieved this by injecting male sheep with a hormone at 30 - 35 days of age and giving them tetanus toxoid to stimulate the development of antibodies. When the sheep were examined surgically at about 11 months of age, the testicles of some were found to be only 5 to 10 per cent of the size of those in the control group. Apart from this, the sheep were healthy and grew normally. When sheep which were sexually mature were injected with a hormone and tetanus toxoid, their testicles atrophied.

The advantage of this non-surgical method of castration is that it eliminates the danger of infection and the trauma associated with surgery. The Idaho scientists say it may be possible to allow males to develop as a whole animal for a specified period and then to castrate them with the hormone procedure. This technique could also become an inexpensive way of neutering male pets in the future.

However, the scientists say that more study is needed before the technique becomes a practical alternative to surgical castration.

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September 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGIST APPOINTED

Dr. H.B. Jeffery, head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, has announced the appointment of Dr. Jim Mahone to the position of animal physiologist. He replaces Kay Henderson who resigned to continue graduate studies at the University of California at Davis.

Dr. Mahone obtained a dual Ph.D. in physiology and animal husbandry at Michigan State University in 1977. After graduation, he was awarded a National Institute of Health postdoctoral fellowship at Purdue University before accepting a position as assistant professor in the department of animal science at Macdonald College in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec in 1978. During his stay at Macdonald, he taught diploma, undergraduate and graduate courses in reproductive physiology as well as several extension short courses on the subject. His research involved examination of environmental and biochemical factors influencing semen quality and reproductive efficiency.

Dr. Mahone has an interest in the artificial insemination industry and has been active in professional organizations as a member of the Society for the Study of Reproduction and the Society of Animal Science.

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Horse Specialist Appointed To Sherwood Park 13

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AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

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September 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Hon. Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has announced a feed freight assistance program to assist farmers whose forage crops were seriously affected by early drought conditions. The program is designed to help farmers secure a winter supply of feed to maintain their basic herds.

The feed freight assistance program will be available in areas of the province which were most severely affected by drought. The areas under consideration are the eastern part of the province and the Alberta portion of the Peace River region. The local councils in these areas, in conjunction with the respective Agricultural Development Committee, will assess the winter feed situation for the respective county, municipal district, improvement district or special area and advise the provincial government whether the program is needed.

Applications by farmers for feed freight assistance will be taken at Alberta Agriculture's district offices for each of the approved areas. The program is retroactive to July 1, 1980 and will run until March 31, 1981. Deadline to receive applications is April 30, 1981.

Freight assistance will be paid for distances in excess of 50 miles at the following rates: 13 cents per ton mile for hay or straw; five cents per ton mile for silage; and eight cents per ton mile for cubed or pelleted roughage. Maximum assistance will be $30 per ton on the one-way loaded distance. The maximum assistance to one operator, partner or corporation is limited to $3,000.

The program applies to farmers using their own trucks as well as to those using public carrier. Farmers must submit freight bills and all other invoices before payment can be made.

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September 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW FUMIGATING EQUIPMENT IN USE

A new beehive equipment fumigator is now being used by Alberta beekeepers. The fumigation unit, which consists of a truck with a crane and the fumigation chamber, is operated by the Alberta Beekeepers' Association. The unit is available to beekeepers for a fee to cover costs and will travel throughout the province.

Beehive equipment fumigation unit.

The unit is a prototype machine designed by Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design branch. Initial tests conducted last spring indicate that ethylene oxide (ETO) fumigation with this unit is effective in reducing both American and European foul brood. The best results were achieved when ETO was used in conjunction with terramycine.

Only limited information is available on beehive fumigation equipment using ETO and further testing will be required to determine optimum rates, times, temperature, pressure

- (cont'd) -

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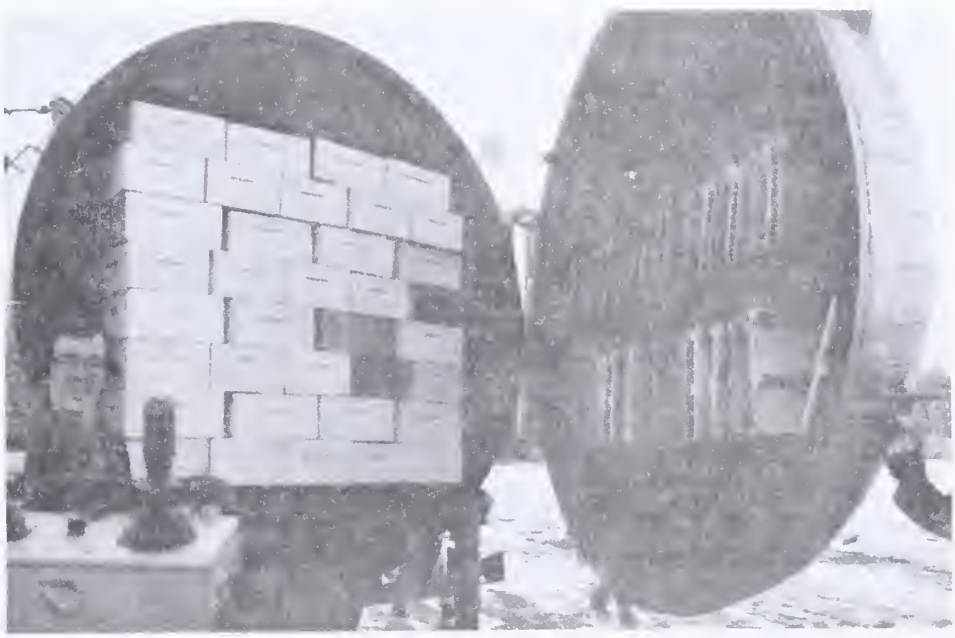
New Fumigating Equipment In Use (cont'd)

and humidity as well as fumigation procedures and management before and after fumigation. The fumigation unit is equipped to accommodate such experimentation and testing. Beekeepers are being asked for their co-operation throughout the duration of the tests.



A charge of supers loaded into unit ready for fumigation.

For further information about the fumigation unit contact: Ken Tuckey, president of the Alberta Beekeepers' Association 674-5414 (Barrhead); Charlie Tuckey, fumigator operator, 674-4291 (Barrhead); or Don McDonald, inspector-researcher, 837-2252 (Falher).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MY DAYS AS A DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST AT DRUMHELLER

by Stan Pettem
Former District Agriculturist at Drumheller

My first experience as a district agriculturist was at Vermilion during the summer break while employed as an instructor at the Vermilion School of Agriculture. I spent the summers of 1950 and 1951 with E.H. Buckingham, and I found the experience invaluable. The office was kept open to the public six days a week and because Vermilion was a Saturday-night town the office was open most Saturday nights. Our time-off was flexible but these were the days of the 5½-day week.

In the spring of 1952, I went to Stettler to fill in for Bob Price, who was on sick leave, and on June 16th, I was appointed DA at Drumheller, a position I held until November 30, 1979.

Fred Bell, my predecessor at Drumheller, had been active organizing 4-H and I fell heir to a number of 4-H clubs. The district clamored for more clubs and within two years there were 12 grain clubs, six beef clubs, two dairy clubs, and my time was full. The district at that time consisted of the M.D.'s of Starland and Kneehill, L.I.D. No.47, and at times it extended to the Saskatchewan border. The only help was a part-time steno. Today, six DAs, five full-time stenos and four district home economists serve the area.

The tuberculosis program had just been put into effect. The M.D. of Starland had petitioned for a Bang's free area and one of the first jobs was the establishment of Kneehill as a 'Bang's free' area. This called for a number of meetings, petitions and the hunt for veterinarians to do the vaccinating. The municipalities were divided into areas for convenience and livestock men were persuaded to act as Bang's captains. After the initial opposition of a few farmers, the program ran smoothly.

- (cont'd) -

My Days As A District Agriculturist At Drumheller (cont'd)

One farmer was going to take us to court because his cows were aborting. Upon visiting his farm in company with the agricultural fieldman, we discovered him grinding grain and mixing stilbestrol which he fed to all his animals. He then saw the light and we had no court case.

The one project which gave the greatest satisfaction was the organizing and building of seed cleaning plants. Twenty-three meetings were held before the sod was turned for the Three Hills plant and an equal number were also held for the Starland plant.

Tree planting on the prairie was important, though some people felt the prairie should not be spoiled by trees. Gradually the farmers built up their shelterbelts and a number turned to roadside planting and a few to field shelterbelts. The month of May turned out to be a busy time because the trees usually arrived during seeding. In our top year, 215,000 trees were put in the ground.

The expansion of the rural electrical associations enabled the farmer to take advantage of many of the modern conveniences of his city cousins, including the installation of running water and indoor plumbing. The first plumbing school was held at Drumheller and these schools proved very popular. Rural electrical schools and welding schools were a natural and were well attended.

In the early 70s, interest in marketing was keen — many farmers were unaware what happened to their grain after it was delivered to the local elevator. Attendance at marketing meetings was terrific and well worth the effort of arranging and presenting them.

The year 1970 saw the beginning of the Farm Management Schools sponsored jointly by Canada Manpower and Alberta Education. Farmers were paid for attending. The first school had 75 applications for only 24 places available. It was a rewarding experience for all concerned: the students, instructors and DAs.

- (cont'd) -

My Days As A District Agriculturist At Drumheller (cont'd)

DAs had for years held farm bookkeeping courses and with the introduction of Canfarm, we entered the age of computers. Many farmers took advantage of the new system and it became necessary to employ canfarm technicians for the winter months to assist the farmers and the DA in the implementation of Canfarm.

The early '70s saw the introduction of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation and the DA became an instant loaning officer. The demand for loans soon took up all the DA's time with little left over for the business of extension. In due course, loans officers were appointed on a full-time basis and thus relieved the DA of this task.

Drumheller became home for us over the years where we raised our family and participated in local activities. I served on the Church Board, 12 years on the Board of the Drumheller Co-op, Master of the Drumheller Lodge, and as we all participated in curling, golfing and bowling. When it came time to retire, it was only natural that we should continue to live in Drumheller.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

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September 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRACKS AND FLOTATION EQUIPMENT FOR COMBINES AND SWATHERS

Tracks and flotation equipment which enable combines and swathers to travel more easily over muddy fields can be added to most makes of harvesting equipment. John Kienholz of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design branch suggests that farmers may find such equipment especially useful this wet fall.

The engineering and home design branch has plans and information that will assist a farmer in adding flotation equipment to his own machinery. Depending on the mechanical skills of the farmer and on the particular make of his combine or swather, the assembly time could take up to a week. Mr. Kienholz estimates the cost would be close to $1,000.

There are some commercial tracks and flotation tires that are available if a farmer doesn't wish to do his own assembly, but the cost is likely to be greater.

For plans, a list of where suppliers of the components are located or any further information, contact the engineering and home design branch in Edmonton at 427-2184, or any one of the regional agricultural engineers located as follows:

Robert Borg, Red Deer	343-5322
Greg Dill, Lethbridge	329-5113
Gary Wendel, Barrhead	674-3351
Brian Kennedy, Vermilion	853-5381
Wayne Winchell, Airdrie	948-5101

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September 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW PESTICIDE REGULATIONS FOR ALBERTA

The Alberta Government introduced two sets of new regulations during the summer under the Alberta Agricultural Chemicals Act.

The act and new regulations are administered by the pesticide chemicals branch, pollution control division, Alberta Environment and replaces the original regulations under the Agricultural Chemicals Act that were introduced in 1970. At that time agriculture was the main user of pesticide chemicals in Alberta. However, during the past decade pesticide use has become increasingly prevalent in other industries. Examples include vegetation management along rights-of-way, treatment of timber and building products, forest management, mosquito control programs and an increased use of pesticides by the homeowner. These changing patterns, coupled with an enormous increase in the number of pest control products available over the past 10 years, necessitated the up-dating of provincial legislation respecting pesticide chemicals.

The new regulations provide for the licensing of dealers and the training of their employees. A system of classifying pesticide chemicals according to human health and environmental hazard has been introduced and new restrictions that govern the use, handling, transportation and storage of the more hazardous compounds are included. A permit system for the major use of pesticides in the Green Zone (forested zone) of Alberta has also been introduced. A complete set of rules for structural fumigation is designed to replace regulations under the Public Health Act. The number of classes of commercial pesticide applicator licences has been increased from eight to 12 to reflect the more specialized services offered by the industry. These new licences now have a term of three years, expiring on the licensee's birthday.

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New Pesticide Regulations For Alberta (cont'd)

Insurance requirements for commercial pesticide applicators have been increased from $100,000 and $25,C00 for public liability and property damage, respectively, to $250,000 and $50,000. Moreover, insurance or bond coverage must now be more closely related to the activities of the pesticide applicator.

If you have questions about the new regulations, you should contact the pesticide chemicals branch, pollution control division, 9820 - 106 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2J6. (Telephone: 427-5855).

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September 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROMOTIONAL EVENT FOR SHEEP AND GOAT INDUSTRIES

Anybody who would like more information on the Lloydminster Exhibition Association's special two-day purebred and commercial sheep show and sale, which will include a goat show, trade fair, craft fair, wool competition, shearing demonstrations and competitions, and novice and open sheep dog trials, should contact the association's secretary-manager. The show and sale is scheduled to take place on July 3 and 4, 1981.

The committee is now in the planning stages for what is envisaged as a very spectacular promotional event for the Canadian sheep and goat industries. Details of the show and prize lists are expected to be finalized in October of this year.

The person to contact for further information on this unique event is Dick Jones, Secretary-Manager, Lloydminster Agricultural Exhibition Association, P.O. Box 690, Lloydminster, Saskatchewan.

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September 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW SUPERVISOR OF LENDING FOR ADC

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the board of directors of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the promotion of Ken Friesen to supervisor of lending. Mr. Friesen will be responsible for farm loan approval and review, and for the supervision of lending section staff at the head office in Camrose.

Ken Friesen joined the corporation in October 1973 and has been involved in loan review and approval since then. Prior to joining the corporation, he was with the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation.

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September 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch has announced the appointment of Deb A. Potter to the position of district home economist for Rocky Mountain House.

Ms. Potter will be providing educational services and individual counselling, and conducting community programs in the areas of food and nutrition, management, housing, clothing and textiles and human environment. She will also be involved with the nutrition at school and 4-H programs.

Born and raised in the rural community of Exeter, Ontario, Ms. Potter received her B.Sc. (home economics) from Brescia College which is affiliated with the University of Western Ontario. She managed the Food Talk program in London, Ontario prior to coming to Alberta where she commenced with Alberta Agriculture in January 1980 as a district home economist-in-training in Drumheller.

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September 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORSE SPECIALIST APPOINTED TO SHERWOOD PARK

Doug Milligan, head of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch, has announced the appointment of Bob Coleman to the position of horse specialist, working out of the County Building in Sherwood Park. The position has been created and the office located in Edmonton region because of the large number of horses in that area.

Mr. Coleman graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1975 with a degree in animal science. Three years later he completed his master's degree in equine nutrition from the same institution.

Prior to commencing employment with Alberta Agriculture, he worked as a livestock nutritionist for Canada Packers in Winnipeg and Federated Co-op in Saskatoon.

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AGRI-NEWS

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NATIONAL ... NATIONALE

3 October 6, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

October 6, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION ON GELATIN PLANT PROGRESSING

The foundations are being poured and construction is progressing on the 26,000 square foot soft elastic gelatin (SEG) plant being constructed in Olds, Alberta. The new plant will use what is considered to be superior technology to manufacture and fill SEG capsules with food supplements, vitamins and pharmaceutical materials destined for markets in Canada, Europe and the Far East.

Banner Gelatin Products Corporation of Chatsworth, California received financial assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement to establish the plant.

Turning the sod are (l to r) Richard Armstrong, mayor of Olds; G.F. Freshman, president, Banner Gelatin; Hon. Dallas Schmidt, minister of agriculture; Richard Banner, vice-president, Banner.

Construction officially got underway with a sod-turning ceremony at Olds in September. The Hon. Dallas Schmidt, minister of Alberta Agriculture; Richard Armstrong, mayor of Olds; G.K. Freshman, president of Banner Gelatin; and Richard Freshman, vice-president of Banner officiated at the ceremony.

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Construction on Gelatin Plant Progressing (cont'd)

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance, equally cost shared and jointly administered by Alberta Agriculture and the Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) is designed to encourage the establishment, expansion or modernization of nutritive processing facilities in Alberta.

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October 6, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXTENSION PROGRAM HELPS THE SHEEP PRODUCER

by Del Steed

Southwestern Alberta, the area I have served as district agriculturist for 33 years, has always had a high sheep population. When I entered the DA service in the late 1940's, sheep producers were having considerable trouble with coyotes. Some had to continuously herd their flocks, yet were suffering losses in the corrals at night. Hunting coyotes by plane was giving some protection but sheep losses remained high.

About this time, reports began to filter through to sheep producers and government authorities about a chemical called 1080 being used with a great deal of success in coyote control in the United States. Alex Charnetski, then head of sheep production work for Alberta, obtained permission to visit the state of Montana to investigate this new program. Since I was serving an area having about 25 per cent of the sheep in Canada, I was given the opportunity to go along. Programs were investigated in the Havre and Great Falls area. The success they were having with 1080 impressed us very much. The Montana visit was made in winter of 1950-51 and by the fall of 1951 arrangements had been made to obtain 1080 for use in Alberta. The program was started that same fall with a number of treated baits being strategically placed throughout my district. Suitable locations were often hard to reach, so many baits had to be hauled by sled or toboggan.

The success of the program was more rapid than expected. Many who were going out of sheep changed their minds. One retired 84-year old farmer was telling me recently that in 1950 he sold his flock of 200 ewes because coyotes had killed 60 of his ewes and lambs that year. However in 1953, about one year after the start of the 1080 program, he decided good control of the coyote problem had already been achieved so he purchased 200 ewes at $31

- (cont'd) -

Extension Program Helps The Sheep Producer (cont'd)

each. He did this despite the fact he had sold his flock for about $6 a ewe just three years earlier. In his words, "Sheep were my moneymakers and I couldn't afford to be without them. In two years I was able to make enough from the flock to cover the cost of the new breeding flock."

With the start of the 1080 program came the organization of the Cardston and district sheepmen's association, which still exists today. Tours, meetings, and sheep sales were arranged by the association. Organized sales brought better prices for members' sheep. As a result of the 1080 program, sheep remained an important industry in this area. The program also spread to cover many more areas of the province. Sure there were problems, but every program has its problems. Sheep producers still praise the program and want it continued. Over the 30 years of continuous use, policy changes have been made so that the program can continue to give producers protection needed by the sheep flocks.

This and other programs such as brucellosis calfhood vaccination and warble control have been of invaluable aid to the livestock producer. Promotion and organization of these and other programs have always been and will continue to be part of the DA responsibility.

About the Author:

Del Steed received his B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta in 1946 and taught public school in Cardston for one year. In 1947 he was appointed DA at Cardston, where he continues to serve.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

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October 6, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEATING GREENHOUSES WITH REJECT HEAT

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks has received numerous requests for information on heating new greenhouses with reject heat from a nearby industrial plant, thermal generating plant or gas compressor station.

Clive Schaupmeyer, the greenhouse energy conservation project leader at the center, says that anybody who is planning such a project should first make sure that the owner of the source of heat is agreeable and that the source is reliable. An ideal source would be one that provides a never ending supply of heat, but since such a situation seldom occurs, it is necessary to have a backup source of heat. The third important factor is the quality and quantity of heat. Is the heat supplied by a gas or a liquid? What is its temperature and how much total heat is available? Are there chemical or physical characteristics that might present a problem? These are all questions that need to be answered before making a decision.

According to Mr. Schaupmeyer, total heat is important but the temperature is even more important. He says many reject heat sources have a massive amount of total heat, but that the temperature is low. Thermal generating plants are a good example. Mr. Schaupmeyer says low temperature heat sources (26° - 32° C) do not look like an economical proposition for greenhouses in view of today's cost of natural gas and heat exchangers. He thinks that temperatures above 38° C are probably cost effective, but he points out that more cost analysis of low-medium range heat sources needs to be done. "The hotter the heat source the better," he says.

He also points out that reject heat is not free. The cost of capturing the heat and of providing a backup source is real and often high. Although many sources of reject heat are not economical compared with conventional methods of heating a greenhouse, they have one

- (cont'd) -

Heating Greenhouses With Reject Heat (cont'd)

important advantage. It is that the cost of such heat in the future is easier to predict in that the capital cost can be amortized over a fixed period and the associated operating costs are more predictable than are future natural gas prices.

More information on using reject heat to heat a greenhouse can be obtained from Clive Schaupmeyer, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO.

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CORRECTION

In the article "Farmers Arrive From Near and Far To Buy Seed" (Agri-News, September 15, 1980, page 1), reference is made to the "late Charlie Linden". The name was incorrectly spelled. The individual referred to was the late Charles A. Lyndon who was the livestock commissioner in 1939.

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October 6, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUCCESSFUL CANOLA MEAL SEMINAR HELD IN OREGON

Alberta Agriculture's international marketing division sponsored a canola meal seminar recently near Portland, Oregon, which attracted most of the Oregon feed industry and included representatives from Alberta's canola crushers. The seminar, which was technical in nature, provided an excellent opportunity for the presentation of the most current feeding information on canola meal. At the completion of the seminar, reports Barry Mehr, international trade director for Alberta Agriculture, everyone felt that there is good potential for marketing Alberta's canola meal in the U.S. Pacific northwest region.

Mr. Mehr says all the crushers he contacted agreed that the seminar was excellent and much interest has been generated. Howard Goodby of Canbra Foods Ltd., Lethbridge, Alberta, and Peter Scott of NARP Processors Ltd., Sexsmith, Alberta were both confident that sales would be forthcoming. However, they say, supportive efforts might be necessary to assist feed industry people to convert their customers from the conventional U.S. protein sources, soybean and cottonseed meals.

Ted Brand, Alberta Food Products Ltd., Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Nestor W. Baryliuk, United Oilseed Products Ltd., Lloydminster, Alberta agreed that the seminar had achieved good success, but pointed out that competitive transportation is now the critical factor to be resolved to facilitate movement of their meal into the Pacific northwest. Current rail rates to Oregon are considered extremely high as compared to those to eastern Canadian markets. Trucking seems to be the most logical alternative with carriers already shipping horticultural products into Alberta and looking for backhauls. Canola meal may be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

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October 6, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER HOG PRICE SUPPORT LEVELS

The following prices pertaining to the Alberta Emergency Stop Loss Program for hogs are published as a guide to weaning pig buyers and sellers who use the slaughter market price in a contract. The actual support price will vary in relation to the index grade.

Month	Guaranteed return on a 170 lb. hog with an index of 101	Equivalent price per hundredweight for a 100 index hog
April	$103.82	$60.47
May	$104.88	$61.09
June	$105.22	$61.28
July	$105.31	$61.33
August	$105.98	$61.72
September	$107.50	$62.61
October	$109.54	$63.80

The support price is based on the price of barley and hog supplement on a moving four-month average. For hogs marketed in September and October, the barley prices were $2.42 and $2.53 per bushel and the supplement prices were $18.29 and $18.31 per hundredweight respectively.

Total payments under the support program to date approximate the following:

April	$4,129,000
May	$3,337,000
June	$3,021,000
July	$1,528,000
Total	$12,015,000

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Alberta
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October 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVOID MOVING INSECTS INDOORS

Many people choose to oversummer some of their house plants out of doors. With the arrival of cooler weather these are moved back indoors for the winter. Frost-sensitive ornamentals such as geraniums, dracenas, gladioli, and begonias will be taken up for storage or propagation. The transfer of plants from the outside is an easy way in which to introduce pest insects into a home, warns Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks. Thrips, spider mites and aphids frequently enter in this way.

One of the most important aspects in the control of any indoor plant pest is early detection and diagnosis. Early detection can only be accomplished by a thorough inspection of each plant. A person should look for the insects or their damage, advises Mr. Soehngen. All above-ground parts of a plant should be examined, especially the undersides of leaves, axils of branches, and blossoms. A hand lens or magnifying glass is useful for this purpose. Discoloration, wilting, leaf deformation, webs, sticky deposits, spots, etc. are all symptoms that something is wrong and insects could be the cause. Population buildups can occur rapidly indoors and infestations may spread to other plants.

Mr. Soehngen suggests reducing pest infestations by thoroughly but carefully washing the plant foliage with tepid water. A mild soap solution will aid in cleaning and in penetrating into cracks. Sterile soil should be used if repotting is necessary. After washing, it is advisable to isolate oversummered plants for a few weeks to make doubly sure that they are pest free. Minor infestations which may occur later on can be spot treated with appropriate insecticides. Aerosol sprays containing pyrethrins, rotenone or diazinon are convenient and effective for control of most insect pests on indoor plants.

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Avoid Moving Insects Indoors (cont'd)

For more information on controlling insect pests on indoor plants consult the Garden Fax factsheet "House Plants - Insects", Agdex 285/626-1, available from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 or Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

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October 6, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VEGETABLE BROCHURES AVAILABLE

A series of brochures outlining delicious ways to prepare 11 of our most popular vegetables and fruits has been released by Alberta Agriculture.

One brochure, *Strawberries and Raspberries*, deals with fruits and the remaining 10 look at a variety of vegetables: *Corn, Carrots, Beets, Rutabagas, Peas and Beans, Salad Greens, Cucumbers, Winter Squash, Summer Squash*, and *Broccoli and Cauliflower.*

Each brochure includes a number of recipes as well as information regarding nutritive value, storage and preservation techniques and purchasing tips.

Copies of the brochures are available from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8 or from Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

October 6, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW HEAD OF REGIONAL VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY APPOINTED

Dr. H. Vance, director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. P.N. Nation as head of the regional veterinary diagnostic laboratory at Airdrie.

Dr. Nation was born in England and at an early age emigrated with his parents to Calgary. He obtained a B.Sc. degree in biology from Simon Fraser University before attending the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Saskatoon. Following his graduation with a DVM degree in 1974, he took post graduate training in diagnostic pathology, obtaining his M.V.Sc. degree in 1976. From 1976-1978 he was employed at the regional veterinary laboratory, Fairview. In 1978 he was transferred to the Airdrie laboratory.

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October 6, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSUMER MARKETING OFFICER APPOINTED

Frances Cullen, commissioner of food marketing for Alberta Agriculture, has announced the appointment of Elaine Langston to the position of consumer marketing officer.

Ms. Langston will be located in Edmonton and will work with the Alberta food industry in carrying out programs to create an awareness of and markets for Alberta food products.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Ms. Langston received a degree in household economics from the University of Alberta in 1965. Prior to her commencement with Alberta Agriculture, she taught home economics for three years and food science for five years with the Edmonton Public School Board.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1980

Agriculture Week
Alberta . . . . . October 27 - 31

"Round-Up '80"
Exhibition & Stampede Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 1 - 5

Provincial Agricultural Development Committees Conference
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 4 - 5

Women Of Unifarm Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 5 - 6

Alberta Beekeepers Association - Annual Convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 5 - 7

Northlands Farm Fair '80
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 6 - 17

Agricultural Business Management Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . November 12 - 14

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
The Coliseum
Exhibition Palace
Toronto, Ontario . . . . . November 13 - 22

Western Canadian Dehy Conference
Travel Lodge Motor Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 18 - 20

Alberta Potato Commission - Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 19 - 21

Alberta Potato Growers' Association - Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 19 - 21

Seed Potato Growers' Association of Alberta - Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 19 - 21

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Farm Equipment Workshop
Holiday Inn
London, Ontario . . . . . November 23 - 26

National Farmers' Union
Hotel Vancouver
Vancouver, B.C. . . . . December 1 - 6

Alberta Polled Hereford Club - Annual Meeting
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . December 7

Farm Land Buying Seminar
Holiday Inn Towers
London, Ontario . . . . . December 8

1981

Western Canadian Agricultural Economic Conference
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . January 6 - 7

Palliser Wheat Growers Association - Annual Meeting and Convention
Hotel Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 6 - 8

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . January 7 - 9

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 12 - 16

Western Agricultural Conference
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 22 - 23

Alberta Rapeseed Growers' Association - Annual Meeting
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 29 - 30

Alberta Dairymen's Association - Annual Convention
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . February 2 - 4

Government Relations and Results Seminar
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . February 2 - 4

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Canadian Charolais Association - Annual Meeting
Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . February 5 - 7

Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Conference
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . February 9 - 12

Canadian Federation of Agriculture - Annual Meeting
Skyline Hotel
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . February 10 - 12

Alberta Nutrition Week
Alberta . . . . . .March 1 - 7

Canadian Agricultural Commodity Conference
Holiday Inn Towers
London, Ontario . . . . . .March 2 - 3

9th International Course On Dairy Cattle Husbandry
Wageningen, Netherlands. . . . . .March 10 - 12

Alberta Polled Hereford - Annual Show & Sale
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . . March 14

11th International Course On Plant Breeding
Wageningen, Netherlands. . . . . .March 17 - 26

Northlands Stock Show & Sale
Edmonton Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . .March 22 - 28

Recent Advances In Fruit Science And Technology
The British Council
Course 061
Wye and East Malling
Kent, England . . . . . March 29 - April 10

Alberta Home Economics Conference
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . .April 10 - 11

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Toronto, Ontario. . . . . July 6 - 9

Western Nutrition Conference and Feed Industry Conference
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . September 14 - 18

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

1982

Canadian Home Economics Conference
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 4 - 9

Agricultural Business Management 1
Goldeye Centre
Alberta . . . . . November 15 - 17

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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ADC Lends 66 Million Dollars To Farmers 2

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORTICULTURIST ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE

From a production only point of view, Alberta's greenhouse industry is in a very envious position: good light, very low energy costs, and an abundance of reject heat.

This was an observation made by Clive Schaupmeyer, head of the greenhouse energy program at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, after returning from an international meeting on The More Profitable Use of Energy in Protected Crop Cultivation held in Dublin, Ireland in September. Growers, greenhouse engineers, horticulturists and economists from 23 countries attended the conference.

Mr. Schaupmeyer was able to make some comparisons between the greenhouse industry in Alberta and the industry elsewhere. Energy costs in more temperate climates like England, Holland and West Germany are about two to three times what they are in Alberta and in some places as much as 10 times more. In other countries, he reports, vegetables and flower crops are being grown profitably for longer periods of the year, under much poorer light conditions than we have in Alberta.

In searching for an explanation as to why, with our low energy costs, our greenhouse industry isn't expanding more rapidly, Mr. Schaupmeyer noted that our production is interfered with by low-price field-grown imports from California and Mexico. "The western European countries generally do not experience this situation and gross returns to growers for vegetables are much higher than they are here. Because of this lack of outside competition, there tends to be better market stability and predictability."

Enroute to Ireland, Mr. Schaupmeyer had a three-day stopover in Iceland. Their greenhouse industry is small in total, he says, but they have three and one-half times more greenhouse area per person than we do in Alberta. He finds this significant in that Iceland is at the same latitude as Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories.

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC LENDS 66 MILLION DOLLARS TO FARMERS

Over the past five months the Agricultural Development Corporation has lent in excess of $66 million to Alberta farmers. This money was provided primarily for the acquisition of land and buildings with a smaller proportion for financial restructuring. This represents over a 100 per cent increase in lending compared to last year when $63 million was lent in the full year.

One reason for this increase was a major shift in the philosophy of the Agricultural Development Corporation. The ADC used to be a lender of last resort for all its programs but is now a primary lender as far as beginning farmers are concerned. As a result, approximately 85 per cent of the total lending is now provided to beginning farmers. Over the first five months of this fiscal year, 350 beginning farmers have been provided with financing so they could establish viable family farms. Lending to beginning farmers carries an earned rebate for the first five years of the loan which could amount to as much as $60,000. This earned rebate is designed to improve management practices and assist in further development of the farm.

The other major reason for the increased lending is the increased lending limits under the various programs. Two-hundred thousand dollars is now available for the purchase of land and buildings, making permanent improvements and financial restructuring over terms of up to 30 years.

The Agricultural Development Corporation expects to lend $160 million this fiscal year which ends March 31, 1981.

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REFLECTIONS ON DA WORK IN THE LACOMBE DISTRICT 1948-1956

Lloyd Rasmusson

I became a district agriculturist (DA) in 1948 when briefing consisted of a half day at headquarters with Bob Putnam and Fred Newcombe. I was instructed on the techniques of completing reports and expense accounts as well as the philosophy and functions of the job. I was then told to proceed to Calgary as the assistant DA and take over the operation of that office while Graham Anderson was on sick leave. Enroute to Calgary, I was asked to stop at Red Deer to see Johnny Eaglesham and Hugh McPhail at Olds. These experienced DAs were to teach me office procedures and the practical aspects of agriculture extension during the remaining part of the day.

Early the next morning I located the Calgary district extension office which was in a second floor building on Seventh Avenue. Norma Jean Gray, the district home economist and Mr. A.R. Boone, the farm labor and potato field crop fieldman were in the same office. Mr. Chrisfield, the Foothills agricultural service board fieldman in the municipal office nearby, worked closely with the extension office. These three people were most helpful with their advice and counselling. They were down-to-earth people with sound practical approaches. I am grateful to them for giving me sufficient 'training' in six weeks to enable me to take over the Lacombe district extension office on May 11th, 1948.

I well recall that day as Fred Newcombe had phoned the day before asking if I'd like to take over the DA office at Lacombe. I replied hesitatingly: "When would this be?" "Oh, there is no hurry", Fred replied, "tomorrow will be okay". So I was there the next morning and found the DA, Gordon Sterling, already cleaning his office desk and heading to headquarters on a promotion.

- (cont'd) -

Reflections On DA Work In The Lacombe District 1948-1956 (cont'd)

The Lacombe office was one small room adjacent to the hatchery. Early in the season we left the door open between our office and the hatchery to get more heat and better air circulation but as the season progressed and the air became more pungent, the door had to be closed. Even that did not change the atmosphere much, for hatching odors and that of rotten eggs filtered through anyway.

The furniture, equipment and extension aids were primitive by today's standards. Our visual aids were shared between neighboring DA offices. The hand operated slide projector and screen were shared with two other offices and an old camera was shared with six other districts on an irregular basis. One was lucky to get the use of it for a week or two each year for some special event. This may explain why we don't have too many pictures of extension work in that era. The gasoline generator, movie projector and films had to be requested well in advance from Edmonton headquarters. This was before the days of rural electrification, so a farm program that advertised the showing of films was sure to draw an early crowd.

I have some vivid memories of returning from agricultural or 4-H night meetings through mud and snow. It was not unusual to have to use tire chains to get through on even the main roads and highways around Lacombe. Occasionally we had to fill the ruts with brush, trees or fence posts and to rock the car backward and forward. This sometimes resulted in a burned-out clutch. Not only were the roads poor but the districts served were larger, so it was necessary to be away from home more in those days. The salary ranged from about $200 - $400 per month, mostly at the lower level. My supervisor once said, "You don't have to be crazy to do these things, but it helps."

There were some rough experiences. There was a shortage of money and housing. It would have been tougher if we had not built our own home on a Veterans' Land Act acreage, raised a garden, and kept some chickens and a cow.

- (cont'd) -

Reflections On DA Work In The Lacombe District 1948-1956 (cont'd)

Looking back, I wouldn't want to have missed it and hope the present generation will derive as much satisfaction from their work as I did. It was well worthwhile. I enjoyed what I did and worked with some of the finest people in the world. Many lasting friendships were made during the course of my work as a DA and I trust I contributed something worthwhile to the welfare of agriculture and the farm people of the area. I should hasten to add that this recollection wouldn't be complete without recognizing the support and understanding provided by my wife. It was she who bore the brunt of the responsibilities of raising our family of five children. May I extend a special tribute to the wives of my colleagues who found themselves in similar circumstances.

About the Author:

Lloyd Rasmusson received his B.S.A. from the University of Saskatchewan in 1936, his M.Sc. in education from Colorado State in 1960 and did doctorate studies at Madison, Wis. in extension education-administration. He served in the RCAF (Radar) 1941-45 with the S.E. Asia Command. Following experience in the hail and fire insurance industry, he joined the department of agriculture in 1948 as DA at Lacombe. He was appointed supervisor of DAs in 1956 and in 1968 was promoted to the position of associate director of extension. Following his retirement in 1974, Lloyd participated as team member in the East Indonesia Regional Development Study group and undertook various consultant assignments both overseas and in Alberta.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEACE REGION'S FARM WIVES' CONFERENCE

by Brenda White
District Home Economist, Valleyview

"You're Worth It" is the theme for the 1980 Peace Region's Farm Wives' Conference sponsored by Alberta Agriculture. This two-day event is slated to be held Thursday and Friday, November 20 and 21, 1980 in Fairview. It provides the opportunity for 100 farm women to temporarily escape from their everyday routine and unite to learn and share information and skills.

One of the highlights of the conference and the first program on the agenda to kick it off will be a panel of farm women addressing the topic of "Challenges Facing Today's Farm Wife". Panel members were chosen to represent some of the various roles a farm wife can hold.

There will be a number of select-a-sessions including presentations on cattle, midwifery, family communications, the challenging teens, cattle and grain marketing, income tax for farm families, ideas from the kitchen, painless sewing and building self-esteem.

In conjunction with the women's program is one for children 2½ to 6 years of age. Games, songs, stories and other activities will all help contribute to an enjoyable and educational experience for them.

All the district home economists in the Peace Region invite you to attend. More information and registration forms (registration deadline is November 14, 1980) may be obtained from any district office.

Today's farm wife is called on to be a tax expert, family counsellor, market analyst, wife, mother and all-around partner in agriculture. This year's conference strives to meet these challenges because YOU'RE WORTH IT!

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRIVISION BEGINS SIXTH SEASON

AgriVision, a weekly television show devoted to agriculture, will be beginning its sixth season on October 14, 1980 and will switch to a new day and time, Tuesday at 10.35 p.m. The program continues to be one of the most watched agricultural programs in southern Alberta with a viewing audience extending as far as southeastern British Columbia and northern Montana.

CFAC Lethbridge Television, in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture, has been producing the show for five years. Hosts for this season are Len Ring, irrigation systems engineer with the irrigation division of Alberta Agriculture and Mike Clawson, district agriculturist with the extension division of Alberta Agriculture. Bill Pollock of CFAC is the producer of the show.

Over the years AgriVision has covered a wide variety of topics and has endeavored to be informative, providing information which will be useful to the farmers in the area. At the same time it tries to be interesting enough so that urban viewers and people not directly related to agriculture can learn more about this important Alberta industry.

To keep up-to-date on what's new and interesting in the field of agriculture, tune in to CFAC Lethbridge Television each Tuesday evening at 10.35 p.m. Groups are invited to have upcoming events publicized on Agrivision by writing to AgriVision, Box 1120, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4A4. Viewers are also encouraged to suggest topics they would like to see covered on AgriVision or to comment on any shows they have seen by writing to the same address.

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROL OF HOUSEFLIES

by Ulf Soehngen
Entomologist, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks

In the fall, not only the human population, but the six-legged world as well, moves indoors to live out the cold season in a warm and protected environment.

One of the insects living in close association (that goes back thousands of years) with man, is the housefly. Like man, it enjoys a varied diet; unlike man, however, it flits unconcernedly from garbage pile to dinner table, sampling here, and dropping a few bacteria there. Over the centuries, flies have been responsible for much human misery by transferring human pathogens from one host to another. Moreover, its annoying habit of settling itself on one's nose, just as one is about to bury oneself in a favorite book, does little to endear this pest to the reader (victim?).

Sanitation is the key to fly control. Removal of areas in which rotting and wet garbage accumulates removes breeding areas in and around the house. Electric fly traps, placed into areas of high fly density, will do an effective job in killing flies. However, the sudden snap, crackle and sizzle, when a fly is electrocuted, can be hard to take over a period of time. Sticky paper strips, while effective, often are scarce and hard to come by. Tightly fitting screen windows and self closing doors keep these insects out — where they belong.

Among chemicals, fly baits are effective. Care must be taken to keep them out of the reach of children and pets. Malathion (deodorized household grade) may be applied where flies congregate. The residual action of this insecticide will kill them slowly as it is absorbed through the flies' feet. The "No Pest Strips" are effective when used as directed. These may

- (cont'd) -

Control Of Houseflies (cont'd)

be hung into garages, outbuildings, attics, and other areas not continuously occupied by pets and people. Finally, pyrethrins, sold in pressurized cans are effective in providing a quick "knock down".

Please remember: PESTICIDES ARE POISONOUS! – or they would not kill!

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USE OF CANOLA MEAL IN RATIONS FOR BROILER TURKEYS

Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch, in co-operation with the University of Alberta's poultry division, has been conducting a series of experiments at the provincial poultry plant at Oliver. The purpose of the most recent study was to determine the optimum level at which canola meal could be used in rations for broiler turkeys.

The development of the canola varieties has resulted in the production of good quality meals that can be used very successfully in poultry rations. This has been shown in several experiments with chickens but no experiments with turkey broilers had been conducted. Two experiments using Diamond White turkeys were conducted. In each experiment, 1600 turkeys poults were fed a commercial type of prestarter until they were four weeks old. At this time they were divided into eight comparable groups of 200 poults each. Duplicate groups were fed rations containing zero, five, 10 or 15 per cent canola meal.

Records were kept on body weight feed consumption and mortality. When the turkeys were 13 weeks of age, they were marketed and the carcasses were graded for quality by federal government inspectors.

The results indicate that including canola meal at levels up to 15 per cent in rations for broiler turkeys had no effect on their rate of growth. Satisfactory body weight at the end of the experiment was obtained in all the groups. There was some variability in feed conversion between the experiments. In the first experiment the groups fed 10 or 15 per cent canola meal required more feed to produce a unit growth. In the second experiment, feed conversion of the different treatments was quite uniform and slightly superior to that obtained in first experiment. Examination of the data indicated that the inclusion of different levels of canola meal in the diet had no effect on the carcass quality of the birds at time of marketing.

- (cont'd) -

Use Of Canola Meal In Rations For Broiler Turkeys (cont'd)

In the two experiments, 78 per cent of the turkeys fed on control ration and 79 per cent of the turkeys fed canola meal were graded as A.

Bill Herbert, head of Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch, sums up the results by saying, "In view of the results obtained and since the small amount of variability observed between experiments could not be attributed to the inclusion of canola meal in the rations, it would appear that as much as 15 per cent canola meal may be used in rations for broiler turkeys with good results."

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEISMIC OPERATIONS AND FARMERS' RIGHTS

Oil exploration in Alberta sometimes brings seismic operators into contact with farmers. Farmers have specific rights with regard to seismic operations. Alberta Agriculture's Farmers' Advocate office is asked many questions about these rights and has prepared a publication to answer the enquiries. "Seismic Operations and Farmers' Rights", a 12-page booklet, is now available. For a free copy contact the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8; or any of Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL DAIRY SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Dennis Prince, head of Alberta Agriculture's dairy processing branch, has announced the promotion of Egon Skovmose to regional dairy specialist, Edmonton.

Egon Skovmose joined the branch in July 1979 as a dairy specialist working out of Wetaskiwin. Prior to joining the branch, he was with Cominco Fertilizer in Carseland, Alberta. He brings with him extensive experience in the dairy processing area.

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October 13, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST-IN-TRAINING AT MANNING APPOINTED

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Irene R. Hastings to the position of district home economist-in-training at Manning.

Ms. Hastings was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario. After being employed for seven years in a variety of office positions, she commenced university in 1975. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in home economics in 1980.

In her position as DHE-in-training, she will jointly provide educational programs and advisory services in home economics to families in the Manning district.

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AGRI-NEWS

October 20, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Candid Camera's Allan Funt Visits Alberta 1

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Alfalfa Leafcutter Cocoon Testing Centre 3

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COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

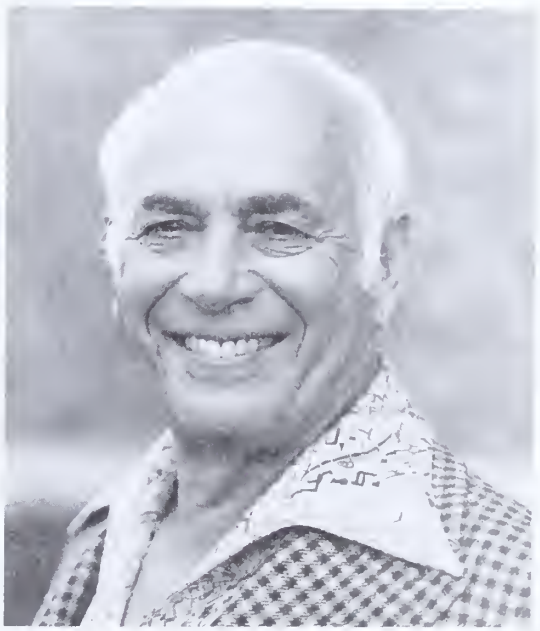
October 20, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANDID CAMERA'S ALLAN FUNT VISITS ALBERTA

Allan Funt, creator, host and producer of Candid Camera, recently surprised shoppers in a northeast Edmonton Safeway store with his familiar "Smile, you're on Candid Camera" line.

The well-known entertainer and his candid camera were in Edmonton at the request of Alberta Agriculture who wanted to find out the reactions of Edmonton shoppers to food prices which consumers in Japan and many European countries normally pay.



Candid Camera's Allan Funt will co-host "Food, Facts & Funt", a television program which answers the question "Food Prices Too High? Compared to What?", to be aired on the CBC Alberta network, Tuesday, October 28 at 7.30 p.m.

How would you react to steak at $35 per pound, cheese at $4.17, or broccoli on special for $3.48 per pound? The reactions of Edmonton shoppers varied all the way from an outrageous "That's a rip-off," to the man who shrugged and readily acknowledged that, indeed, "cheese is expensive."

All this was done as part of a television special Alberta Agriculture has produced to be televised during Agriculture Week, October 27-31. The special is designed to show consumers that it's because of Alberta's solid agricultural base that our food prices are among the lowest in the world. As a result of these low food prices, we are able to afford the many luxuries we enjoy and frequently take for granted.

"Food, Facts & Funt", designed both to entertain and inform, will be aired on the CBC Alberta network on Tuesday, October 28 at 7.30 p.m. The program will look at the question "Food Prices Too High? Compared to What?"

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October 20, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 31 DEADLINE FOR INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE PLAN

Farmers who wish to take advantage of the crop insurance Individual Coverage Plan for next year have only to October 31 to sign up, says E.A. Patching, general manager of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

The Individual Coverage Plan was developed to meet the needs of the above-average farmer who consistently produces yields above the average level for their area. Under the plan, coverage is based on the farmer's own yields, rather than area averages.

The Individual Coverage Plan has been available for several years and while participation is limited, it has met the needs of those farmers who demonstrate they are entitled to a higher level of coverage than can be provided under the basic crop insurance program.

Mr. Patching urges those farmers who would like to find out more about the Individual Coverage Plan to contact their local crop insurance office. But don't forget the October 31 deadline for new applications.

Referring to this year's crop insurance program, Mr. Patching says that payments for hail losses have been considerably above average. But providing harvesting in the province can be completed without further major set-backs, he predicts loss payments under the basic program should not exceed those of last season which was a relatively light year. While crop yields have been above average over much of Alberta, there are areas, particularly in parts of the Peace River and northeastern Alberta, where drought has drastically reduced yields and crops are light. Frost in central regions and excessive moisture in the north-central areas have also taken their toll.

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October 20, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFALFA LEAFCUTTER COCOON TESTING CENTRE

The Alfalfa Leafcutter Cocoon Testing Centre will commence operations on November 3, 1980. As before, the function of the centre, which is operated as a joint venture by the Alfalfa Leafcutterbee Associations of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, is to provide individual beekeepers with information about the quality of the current season's crop of leafcutter cocoons. Factors, such as viability of the larvae, degree of parasitism, "second generation", and the sex ratio of the bees in the samples provided, will be assessed and reported to the beekeepers. This information will enable them to improve their management techniques and to obtain fair prices for surplus cocoons offered for sale.

This year, however, the analysis technique will be changed. In past years, a laborious, time-consuming process of hand sorting had been used, creating a considerable backlog for which additional help had to be hired. This year, the cocoon samples will be X-rayed with a new unit purchased by the Alberta Leafcutter Association with a grant provided by Alberta Agriculture. It is expected that the X-ray technique will speed up the processing and make most of the required information available within several days after receipt of a sample. For information on sex ratio, the cocoon samples will still have to be incubated which may take from three to five weeks.

Because of the cost of films and other necessary materials, the fee payable by the beekeeper for X-ray analysis of each sample has had to be increased to $30.00 from $15.00; if a sex ratio analysis is required, a further $20.00 has to be charged.

Leafcutter beekeepers who wish to have cocoon samples analyzed should send their samples (250 g of cocoons) to: Alfalfa Leafcutter Cocoon Testing Centre, c/o Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO, together with their cheque(s) and the following information: name, address, telephone number of the bee-

- (cont'd) -

Alfalfa Leafcutter Cocoon Testing Centre (cont'd)

keeper, nesting materials from which the cocoons were obtained, and whether they came from irrigated or dryland fields. Information pertaining to any given sample should be put into the bag, together with the cocoons.

Deadline for sending samples will be March 30, 1981.

Cocoon samples should be well packed and sent by the quickest route. The containers should be clearly marked: LIVE MATERIAL - AVOID EXTREME HEAT OR COLD.

Information regarding the program may also be obtained by calling the Cocoon Testing Centre at (403) 362-3391.

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CORRECTION

Please note that the cutline which appeared under the picture in the story "Construction on Gelatin Plant Progressing" (Agri-News October 6, 1980, page 1) was in error. The correct cutline should read:

Turning the sod are (l to r) Richard Freshman, vice-president, Banner Gelatin; Hon. Dallas Schmidt, Minister of Agriculture; G.K. Freshman, president of Banner Gelatin; R. Armstrong, mayor of Olds.

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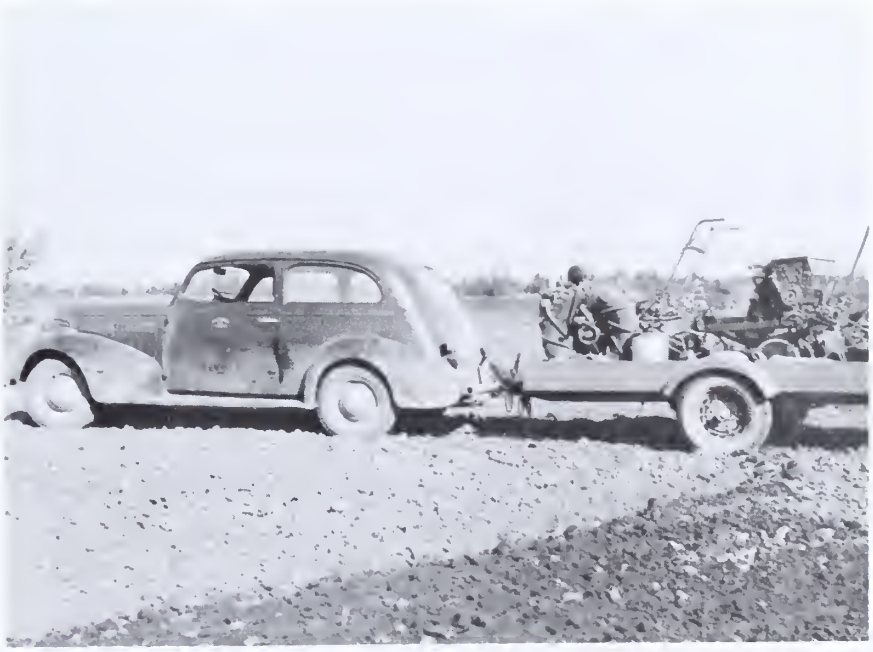
October 20, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIONEERING AS A DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

by Peter Wyllie



Tractor and drill used in seeding grain and fertilizers on John Dorn's farm near Thorsby. This series of fertilizer tests was made under the direction of field crops branch. (May 24, 1940)

To pioneer as a district agriculturist in the 1930's was quite an experience. With my appointment on December 8, 1936, I was told to proceed to Leduc and establish the first DA office between Red Deer and Edmonton. The district included the municipality of Strathcona on the north, the Hobbema reserve on the south, with Looma, New Sarepta and Gwynne as the eastern boundary and the Saskatchewan River on the west. The immense territory was served by only one gravelled road, the Calgary trail which passed through Leduc, Millet and Wetaskiwin. The rest, where they existed, were dirt roads.

In January 1937, I rented an office in a garage at Leduc and used office equipment consisting of a desk, chair and filing cabinet. I also had one well used Chevrolet car —

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Pioneering As A District Agriculturist (cont'd)

a hand-me-down from district agriculturist, Harry Tremblay. I provided my own typewriter. There was no secretary, no duplicating equipment, and no list of farmers.

With little telephone service and few weekly newspapers available, it was necessary to establish lines of communication. This was done by visiting every corner of the territory, recording all post offices and days of mail delivery. From the contacts made with local postmasters, I was able to develop a mailing list of key farmers in each district, which proved valuable in future work.

1937 was a hectic year. Establishing the office at Leduc, getting married, organizing swine and grain clubs and many field days, and conducting seed drill surveys took all my time. Everything had begun to fall into place when I was notified to close the office in Leduc and move my headquarters to Thorsby.

In establishing headquarters at Thorsby, it was impossible to rent space for an office. The house we had rented had a large sunporch. I suggested to headquarters that this sunporch could be used as the office. The idea was accepted and for many years it served as the DA office. With a single telephone for home and office, it became apparent that my wife, Marion, would be involved. For the next three years she took all calls, distributed bulletins, answered inquiries, sold nitro-culture (seed inoculum) and helped in many ways when I was absent from the office. Unofficially, she and I were probably the first, and maybe the only, husband-and-wife team to serve in the development of district agriculturist services.

With no duplicating equipment available, a large cookie sheet was obtained and filled with a special gelatin. Along with a particular type of carbon paper, this became our main source of duplicating all circular letters, notice of meetings, posters for field days and any other information sent out from the office. Tractors were few and far between in the late 30s. Horses were the main source of power to carry out all field operations, and there was even a shortage of that kind of horse power. This led to the development of stallion clubs, which

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Pioneering As A District Agriculturist (cont'd)

entailed arranging organizational meetings, establishing buying committees, and finally arranging for, or transporting, the buying committee to inspect and purchase a stallion. In all, 15 stallion clubs were formed in the four years. With each stallion club, a colt show was arranged for the following year. This work proved valuable for it improved the size and quality of horses and brought about an increase in the number of horses available for farm work.

When I was appointed to the district, the main instruction from headquarters in Edmonton was to try and improve cattle production. As I travelled throughout the territory, it became obvious that good feed supplies were a prerequisite to cattle production. With the aid of a forage crop seed distribution program under the direction of the field crops branch, I concentrated on the development of forage crops and forage seed production, particularly in the grey soil zone. This policy involved the field crops branch, the municipal council and the farmer, each paying one-third of the cost of seed. Trying to sell this distribution idea to municipal committees was difficult. Councillors were more concerned with roads and culverts or the hiring of school teachers than with the development of agriculture. Persistence paid off and by the end of my tenure, all municipalities in the territory were involved in forage seed distribution.

In late winter and early spring, seed distribution days were arranged throughout the territory, and seed was ordered and shipped to suitable locations. Eventually fertilizers were added to this distribution program. It was quite common to arrive at a distribution day with over a ton of seed and fertilizer stowed in the car and trailer. The development of forage crops led to the establishment of a forage seed cleaning co-operative, which operated for several years at Warburg.

Fertilizers were essential to the development of a forage crop program, and many fertilizer trials were established. The fertilizer spreader was adapted to attach to the car bumper. It was driven by sprocket and chain from the rear wheel of the car. Spring and fall

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Pioneering As A District Agriculturist (cont'd)

applications of fertilizers were tested over the years, and yields recorded.

Our work in the development of forage crops was probably the most important contribution made in my four years of DA services. In December 1940, my work as a DA came to an end when I was appointed sheep and swine promoter for the province of Alberta.

From time to time, my wife and I have visited the district I once served. We are thrilled with the development that has taken place and appreciate the fact that we were given the opportunity to have played one small part in that development.

About the Author:

In 1924, Mr. Wyllie was a member of the first junior swine club judging team from Alberta to win at the Toronto Royal. He attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture from 1926-29 and received his B.Sc. from the University of Alberta in 1934.

From 1934-36, he was supervisor of junior farm clubs, and from 1936-41, DA at Leduc/Thorsby. Subsequently, Mr. Wyllie established a purebred Yorkshire herd at Leduc and served as field supervisor for the MD of Leduc from 1946 to 1951. He is now retired and lives at Vegreville.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

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October 20, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RURAL RESCUE SERVICE

The Rural Safety Committee of Alberta Safety Council is introducing a new program called Rural Rescue Service.

The main objective of the program is to reduce the severity of injuries resulting from farm-related accidents by providing rescue equipment to aid in the extrication of the victims. Included in the equipment list are a resuscitator, an air bag system to lift heavy weights, breathing apparatus, fire extinguishers, a cutting torch, and an electric winch.

This equipment may also play a major role in other rescue operations.

Municipalities were invited to submit applications to the Alberta Safety Council for upwards of nine pieces of rescue equipment valued in total at $12,500. When applications closed October 1, 1980, 22 applications had been received. A special committee will be reviewing each application. The equipment will remain the property of Alberta Safety Council but will be on permanent loan to successful applicants.

"It is hoped that this type of service will help reduce the number of severe injury accidents in the rural and farm community," says Bob Novikoff, general manager of the Alberta Safety Council.

"It is intended that Rural Rescue Service, including transportation , will be provided as a free service to the public. The organizations selected will also be expected to promote accident prevention through public awareness programs," added Mr. Novikoff.

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October 20, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOBBY GREENHOUSES IN ALBERTA

A small greenhouse can be a source of great satisfaction to a hobby gardener. It allows the gardening season to be extended over the whole year and makes it possible to produce plants which could not otherwise be grown.

Alberta Agriculture's communication division has released a publication which gives simple, basic instructions on building, heating and managing small greenhouses for the amateur. "Hobby Greenhouses in Alberta" contains many diagrams, illustrations and tables which convey the information necessary to complete and operate a greenhouse.

Copies of the publication are available from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8; or from Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

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October 20, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRRIGATED CANOLA PRODUCTION

Canola, the term applied to double-zero rapeseed varieties, has become second only to wheat as the most important crop to Alberta farmers in terms of cash return. Acreage of irrigated canola in southern Alberta has increased dramatically and, as producers gain experience and confidence in growing irrigated canola, the potential for over 100,000 acres in irrigated canola may be reached.

To provide growers with production information, Alberta Agriculture, assisted by Canbra Foods of Lethbridge, has carried out a major survey of 95 successful irrigation canola producers. The information obtained from these producers and the latest research studies have been combined in a publication entitled "Irrigated Canola Production". The 12-page manual is available to irrigation farmers from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8; or from Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

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Communications Division

October 20, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST FOR SMOKY LAKE APPOINTED

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Arlene P. Swanson to the position of district home economist for Smoky Lake.

Ms. Swanson was born in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan and was raised on a mixed farm northeast of that centre. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.Sc. in home economics in 1975.

After graduating from university, Ms. Swanson worked as an extension assistant with the extension division of the University of Saskatchewan and later joined the Fanny's Fabrics firm working first in Regina and later in Calgary. She joined Alberta Agriculture in January 1980 and worked as a district home economist-in-training in Brooks.

In her position in Smoky Lake, she will provide advisory services and educational programs to rural families in the area.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

by Nick Chomik

Having spent 34 years as a district agriculturist qualifies me to reminisce about the past and review a few of the highlights of my career. After graduating from the University of Alberta in May, 1946, I was hired by the extension branch of Alberta Agriculture as a district agriculturist-in-training for the grand sum of $150 per month. I had a wife and child and was posted to Vermilion where I enjoyed that summer working with Ernie Buckingham – and what an experience I received in office management!

That winter I was recruited to teach field husbandry at the agricultural college, and in the spring of 1947 I was appointed as district agriculturist at Ryley. My predecessor, Bill Moisey, introduced me to the several 4-H clubs which had already been organized in the district and thus commenced an era of 4-H experiences and highlights for me.

To say the least, I enjoyed 4-H work. It gave me an opportunity to meet people, to work with families and learn the problems of the area. I had the whole county involved in 4-H and at one time, I believe, I had 11 clubs formed. Although there were numerous highlights achieved through 4-H probably the most outstanding was having three of my judging teams (grain, beef and dairy) win at the provincial 4-H competitions to go to National Club Week which, at that time, was held in conjunction with the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto.

During my 14 years of service in the Ryley district, I was confronted with the challenge of how to manage solonetzic soils which are prevalent in the county and on which production of crops has always been a problem. In addition, beef cattle and dairying were major enterprises in the area, and I was put to the test regularly to assist farmers with their problems. Under these circumstances, one can't help but receive a lot of training oneself,

- (cont'd) -

Those Were The Days (cont'd)

which I did. I learned a lot from the farmers and enjoyed the experiences of working with them.

One other highlight I must mention: In the 1950's, the department was on a farm and home planning or farm management "kick" — a very good program. With the district home economist, I organized several small groups and we held meetings and workshops that resulted in some of the most valuable discussions. I don't know for sure how much we accomplished, but I do know that there were several families that vastly improved their farm accounting and record keeping systems.

I took over the Vegreville office in the spring of 1960 where I remained till my retirement. There was a noticeable difference in the programs and demand for services out of the Vegreville office. I was soon deeply involved in seed cleaning plant associations, agricultural service board programs, community pasture, feeders associations, and later Agricultural Development Corporation work.

The highlight of these was the agricultural service board programs (ASB). The ASB of the County of Minburn had embarked on some very basic programs such as back sloping of roads and tree planting, soil conservation projects such as gully filling, a stubble burning by-law, a top soil removal by-law (I believe the first one to be established in the province under the Soil Conservation Act), and some mammoth weed control projects including toad flax eradication.

The 1960's also brought about an explosion of technology in the use of agricultural chemicals and their application to farming practices. Production costs and investment costs rose sharply in the '70's. In those years, it kept the district agriculturist hopping to keep abreast of the technological advances so that he was in a knowledgeable position to advise farmers. In addition, the social and economic changes in rural communities were occurring as rapidly as the technological.

Those Were The Days (cont'd)

The challenge for the extension worker was greater than ever, and appears certain to continue to be so for the future.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE METHODS TO CONTROL CATTLE GRUBS

The pour-on, spot-on or high pressure spray methods of applying systemic insecticides in the fall will effectively control cattle grubs. For Alberta, the last date for safe treatment south of Trans-Canada Highway No.1 is November 1, and for the portion of the province north of the highway, December 1, 1980.

Alberta cattlemen may select the method most suitable for their type of operation. The pour-on method is quick and simple but requires holding facilities such as a cattle chute. The spot-on technique is an extremely fast method of applying a ready-to-use, highly concentrated systemic insecticide. This can be applied through an applicator gun or a graduated device called a squeeze-spot.

Cut-off dates for cattle grub treatment in Alberta.

High pressure spray is for applying dilute insecticide at 2415-2760 kPa (350-400 psi). Although it is not very commonly used by producers, it has the added advantage of controlling cattle lice.

Ali Khan, pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says that early treatment produces better results. For information on current products available for cattle grub treatment, he suggests farmers contact their agricultural fieldmen, district agriculturists or veterinarian in their area, or contact Dr. Khan directly at 427-9051 in Edmonton.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PET BIRD IMPORTS FROM U.S. BANNED

On September 18, Agriculture Canada banned the importation to Canada of most exotic pet birds from the United States.

The purpose of the ban is to protect the Canadian poultry industry against the possible introduction of velogenic Newcastle disease.

This ban applies to parrots, budgies, finches, canaries, cockatiels and most other pet birds. The import ban on American birds will remain in effect until the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) can assure Agriculture Canada authorities that U.S. pet bird flocks are again free of velogenic Newcastle disease.

The ban does not apply to commercial poultry, day-old chicks or hatching eggs.

The velogenic form of Newcastle disease is not usually found in either Canada or the United States. However, it was diagnosed at a pet bird dealership in Miami, Florida, in early September and the USDA traced shipments of possibly infected birds to about 500 points in North America.

Three shipments of birds that may have been infected (about 2,000 finches) had entered Canada.

The animal disease control section of Agriculture Canada has quarantined the premises of the Canadian dealers who received these birds. The finches have been traced and destroyed, together with all other birds they contacted.

Agriculture Canada pays compensation at market value to those dealers whose birds are destroyed.

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Pet Bird Imports From U.S. Banned (cont'd)

Mild strains of Newcastle disease are present in Canada, and most commercial poultry raisers routinely vaccinate against the disease. However, the exotic, velogenic strains can wipe out a poultry flock within a few weeks.

Newcastle disease is caused by an airborne virus that affects the nervous and respiratory systems of birds.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUGOUT AERATION WITH COMPRESSED AIR

by Andrew Livingstone
Regional Engineering Technologist, Alberta Agriculture

Maintaining aerobic conditions in dugout water throughout the year, especially during winter, can be achieved by aeration with compressed air. This assures a sufficient level of dissolved oxygen to control odors and maintain good quality water. Chemical control of algae and water weeds will still be required.

Alberta Agriculture's engineering field services branch has installed a demonstration compressed air aeration system in a farm dugout near Innisfail. From an initial dissolved oxygen concentration of 0 mg/L, the system has increased the dissolved oxygen concentration to 7 mg/L after approximately 12 hours of actual operation. Saturation point (approximately 11 mg/L for this dugout) will be reached shortly.

The system has been designed to operate throughout the winter. By providing saturated conditions under the dugout ice cover, it is hoped that a significant improvement in water quality will be created. Water quality will be monitored throughout the next 12 months.

Persons interested in trying dugout aeration with compressed air on either a temporary or permanent basis should contact Andrew Livingstone at Box 1540, Barrhead, phone 674-3351 or Ken Williamson, Box 5002, 4747 Ross Street, Red Deer, phone 343-5323.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTERIZING TREES AND SHRUBS

Winter injury on many trees and shrubs can be reduced or eliminated by certain preventive practices, says Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks. Autumn is the proper time to apply many of these measures. The main types of winter injury are desiccation, mechanical injury and low temperature (frost) damage.

Desiccation occurs because dormant plants respire in the winter, even during the coldest periods. As a result, small amounts of water are lost from plant parts such as buds and evergreen needles. The rate of water loss increases with rising temperatures, drying winds and full sunlight. When the ground is excessively dry or frozen, water may be lost from needles and buds faster than it can be replaced through the roots. Excessive desiccation kills bud and needle tissues from the edges and tips progressively inward. Damage is usually more severe on plants in exposed locations such as hilltops, along open roadways and in shelterbelts.

Pine and spruce needles damaged from winter desiccation turn yellow, then reddish-brown from the tips downward. Branch tips of junipers and cedars may also be killed. Deciduous trees and ornamentals may fail to leaf out properly in the spring or the tips of branches will appear brown and dried out. Pathogenic and saprophytic microorganisms frequently colonize these weakened tissues and can increase the degree of damage.

Mechanical injury can be a problem because multi-stemmed evergreens such as junipers tend to spread and break under a load of ice or snow. Deciduous trees with soft brittle wood such as Manchurian elm, boxelder and birch may be seriously damaged by ice. Ice coatings may increase the weight of a branch up to 40 times. Improper removal of ice or snow from a tree or shrub often increases injury.

As a rule, cold temperatures alone do not injure plant species that are well adapted

- (cont'd) -

Winterizing Trees And Shrubs (cont'd)

to a given area. Abnormally cold temperatures may, however, cause injury. Excessive and rapid fluctuations in temperatures cause most of the injuries, not low temperatures alone. Such conditions are common in the chinook zones of southern Alberta.

The ability of trees and shrubs to withstand cold temperatures is dependent upon the winter hardiness of the plants. Winter hardiness is influenced by soil drainage, location, natural protection, character of root system, environmental conditions during the summer and fall, and species of plant. A cool summer followed by a warm early fall with abnormally low temperatures in late October or early November may result in improperly hardened plants and cause winter injury. Excessive application of nitrogen fertilizer, or pruning in August or September may promote new growth that will not mature and may be damaged by freezing.

Root injury occurs most commonly during winters of little snowfall or in soils bare of vegetation. Plants with root systems damaged in the late summer by disease, insect, drought, etc., may be more susceptible to winter injury. Roots growing in poorly drained soil are more likely to freeze than those growing in well drained soil. This is especially true of pine tree roots. The effects of frozen roots are seldom seen until the following summer when damaged plants may wilt and die.

Young, smooth-barked trees such as apple, elm, horse chestnut, linden, maple, poplar and willow are susceptible to frost cracking. Damage usually appears on the south or west sides of trunks or exposed limbs. Frost cracks occur when winter sun causes a differential expansion of wood beneath the bark. The temperature of wood beneath the bark on the sunlit side of a tree may be as much as 15° C warmer than the surrounding air temperatures. The unequal expansion and contraction of the wood may cause longitudinal splits in the bark and wood. Such injury results in unsightly scars, and provides entrance for wood-rotting organisms. Frost cracks may reopen year after year.

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Winterizing Trees And Shrubs (cont'd)

Frost injury occurs when temperatures dip below freezing in late spring after new growth is well advanced. Frost injury is characterized by the rapid wilting and browning of new leaves, shoots or flowers. Leaves may be puckered or distorted if frost occurs just as buds are breaking.

Prevention of Winter Injury

Since weather cannot be controlled, it is necessary to take precautions that will reduce the possibility of damage.

- Use plant materials recommended for the specific horticultural zones of the province (see the Alberta Horticultural Guide).
- Plant ornamental trees and shrubs in locations where the soil is reasonably well drained.
- Water trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, before freeze-up to ensure that they have sufficient moisture in the root zone. This is very important after a dry summer or fall. Pay special attention to plants which are situated under the overhang of houses.
- Avoid fertilizing trees and shrubs in the late summer or early fall. If fall application is desired, wait until trees or shrubs are dormant.
- Mulches of leaf mold, peat moss, chopped straw or other suitable materials around the base of trees and shrubs will increase moisture retention and decrease the depth of the frost line. They also prevent alternate freezing and thawing of soil once it is frozen. Mulches should be pulled away from the trunks of trees in the fall to allow this area to harden off properly.
- Wrap the trunks of young, thin-barked trees with burlap, sisalkraft paper, or other tree wrapping materials to prevent frost cracks and sunscald. If these prove unusable, consider painting trunks and branches with white latex paint.

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Winterizing Trees And Shrubs (cont'd)

Rodent repellents such as thiram may be included in the paint. Broad boards nailed to the trunks of some trees may also provide satisfactory sunscald protection.

- Tie branches of multi-stemmed evergreens, such as junipers, together with strong, pliable cord or strips of cloth to prevent breakage from ice and snow.
- Erect canvas, plastic, burlap or slat screens on the south and west sides of exposed evergreens to prevent dessication. The screens should be at least two feet away from the trees. It is advisable to use plants that do not require this type of protection in severely exposed areas.
- Ice-laden branches should be propped with suitable materials. Avoid knocking ice off branches in cases where breakage may occur. Snow may be gently brushed away if it has not frozen to the foliage or branches.
- Prune away dead and broken branches or twigs in early spring. Paint wounds with shellac or tree paint. Application of a complete fertilizer in late April or May will help to stimulate new growth.
- Repair splits and cracks in the trunk, large branches and bark of trees prior to winter. Freeze-thaw processes may enlarge such wounds and induce excessive bark sloughing.
- Fence in or erect metal barriers around trees which are prone to animal damage. Traps and poison baits may be necessary against rodents. Care should be taken to avoid injury to non-target animals.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DO YOU EAT YOUR HALLOWE'EN PUMPKIN?

by Helen E. Raynard
Home Economics Laboratory, Alberta Agriculture

November 1 means that the jack-o'-lantern has become a left-over pumpkin. Depending on how long it was a jack-o'-lantern, and the temperature at which it was held, the pumpkin may still be edible. Don't expect it to keep much longer though.

Pumpkins are members of the squash family. They are an excellent source of vitamin A and a good source of vitamin C.

Like any other winter squash, pumpkin can be boiled, baked or cooked in a microwave oven.

To boil, cut in pieces and remove seeds and stringy portions. Cube and peel. Cook in a small amount of salted water until tender — about 20 to 30 minutes.

To bake, do not peel. Add a very small amount of water and bake covered at 200° C (400° F) until tender — about 45 minutes to one hour.

To microwave a portion of pumpkin about 15 x 15 cm (6 x 6 inches) peel and cube. Add 50 mL water (about 1/4 cup). Cover and cook until barely tender — about 8 to 10 minutes.

To serve as a vegetable, sprinkle with salt and pepper or add a little butter and brown sugar.

To make a puree, put through a ricer, strainer or blender. Use in your favorite pumpkin recipe — pie, muffins, quick bread, cake, cookies, waffles or ice cream.

If you are too busy to bake immediately after Hallowe'en, cook the pumpkin and prepare puree. Measure the amount required for specific recipes, package, label and freeze.

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Do You Eat Your Hallowe'en Pumpkin? (cont'd)

Perhaps you would like to try the following tested recipe for pumpkin soup. It was well liked by the taste panel in the Home Economics Laboratory.

Of course if you wish, you could do it the easy way — use canned pumpkin.

Pumpkin Soup

50 mL butter or margarine
1 sliced onion
250 mL sliced mushrooms
25 mL flour
5 mL salt
pepper
5 to 10 mL curry powder
750 mL chicken broth
500 mL cooked mashed pumpkin
15 mL honey
250 mL evaporated milk
croutons

In a large saucepan, melt butter; add onion and mushrooms. Saute until onion is soft, but not brown.

Stir in flour, salt, pepper and curry powder until smooth. Gradually stir in chicken broth, pumpkin and honey, stirring constantly until smooth. Simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add milk; heat thoroughly.

Serve with croutons.

Yield: 6 250-mL servings.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COPE. . .WITH FAMILY AND FINANCIAL PAPERS

The average family accumulates a large number of family records, papers and documents. Keeping track of all these pieces of paper can be a difficult task.

"Cope. . . with family and financial papers" is a publication designed to help cope with an estate inventory. The booklet tells how to assemble and maintain such a record and provides the necessary forms. In cases of emergency, relatives or friends will have a quick and easy reference for documents and other information.

Copies of "Cope. . . with family and financial papers" are available from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8; or from Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW STAFF IN DAIRY FARM INSPECTION BRANCH

Ed Bristow, head of Alberta Agriculture's dairy farm inspection branch, has announced the appointment of two temporary employees in the inspection program.

Verna Mumby will work as a dairy farm inspector. Ms. Mumby is a 1980 graduate from Lakeland College in Vermilion where she completed two diplomas, animal health and care, and animal production. She will be working for the dairy division in Wetaskiwin for the winter of 1980-81.

John Acton will be employed as a dairy farm fieldman for the winter. Mr. Acton was educated at Wesley College, Dublin, after which he attended two agricultural colleges, Gurteen Agricultural College, Tipperary, where he obtained a National Certificate in Agriculture, and Clonakilty Agriculture College, Cork, where he qualified with distinction for a diploma in Dairy Husbandry and Management.

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AGRI-NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOAN GUARANTEE FOR NEPTUNE BULK TERMINALS CANADA LTD.

The Alberta Government has authorized a guarantee of loans amounting to $13.5 million to Neptune Bulk Terminals (Canada) Ltd. on a project finance basis.

In making the announcement Hugh Planche, Alberta's economic development minister, said the purpose of the guarantee is to enable a consortium of Western Canadian users through the newly formed Neptune Bulk Terminals (Canada) Ltd. to take the necessary steps to purchase the assets of the existing company, Neptune Bulk Terminals Ltd. in Vancouver.

Mr. Planche emphasized that while Alberta is extending this required financial backing, use of the west coast terminal facility will serve and benefit all of Western Canada. The loan guarantee will permit five rapeseed processors and some 22 alfalfa processors located in Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. to participate in the ownership and use of Neptune Bulk Terminals (Canada) Ltd.

The purchase by the consortium will secure Western Canada's export position for its resource products by ensuring the operation of a stable bulk terminal. The minister said the government's provision of a loan guarantee is simply to assist the users consortium to purchase existing Neptune assets valued at about $20 million. A breakdown of the loans being guaranteed shows that $12 million will be used for the purchase of these assets and $1.5 million in support of an operating line of credit.

Owners of the new Neptune Bulk Terminals (Canada) Ltd. are a consortium of Western Canadian users involved in the export of coal, potash, rapeseed products and alfalfa pellets, and the importation of phosphate rock. The users consortium group embraces interests

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Loan Guarantee For Neptune Bulk Terminals Canada Ltd. (cont'd)

all of which have a major stake in efficient access to tidewater on Canada's west coast.

The economic development minister said the purchase proposal appears to be reasonably structured to permit this important terminal facility to be placed on a sound economic basis, ensuring protection of smaller shipper interests such as rapeseed products and alfalfa pellets. He said a government guarantee at this time will facilitate the closing of an agreement between the users consortium and the seller.

Neptune is one of the major bulk terminal operators in Vancouver. Present owners, Federal Industries Ltd., decided in the fall of 1978 to dispose of its interests in Neptune and has been exploring the possibility of sale to prospective purchasers. From time to time the unstable status of Neptune has been seen as a possible risk to a secure Western Canadian export position for its resource products.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANS FOR A $7.7 MILLION FOOD PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED

Plans for the construction of a $7.7 million food processing development centre in the county of Leduc have been announced. It is anticipated that the 20,000 square foot facility will be completed in the summer of 1983.

Funded through the capital projects division of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, the centre will be a unique addition to the food processing industry in Alberta and Western Canada. It will house equipment and facilities designed to assist the food processing industry to develop new products, improve and expand existing product lines, develop new and improve packaging techniques and adapt and modify food processing engineering and technology.

Of particular interest to the small and medium sized processor is the fact that the centre will provide specialized testing facilities and technical expertise that is necessary for the long-range development of the industry. It will be federally inspected when necessary to allow processed products to be returned to the market place for further evaluation and testing.

The food processing centre, which will be staffed and operated through Alberta Agriculture's marketing services division, is another important step in the development of a diversified economy in Alberta. It will complement the efforts of the industry in developing the province's agricultural resources in a way that will provide long-term economic benefits to its citizens.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE ALBERTA FIRMS TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Five more Alberta firms are to receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Sub sidiaryAgreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance for projects involving an estimated $1,483,108 in capital costs.

Ault Foods Ltd. of Lethbridge, a division of Catelli Ltd, will receive assistance to modernize and expand its short goods production line and to modernize its long goods packaging line so that it can serve the growing market for pasta in Western Canada. The estimated capital cost of the two projects is $678,954 and two new jobs are expected to be created.

Trans Canada Freezers Ltd. will receive $80,949 to modernize and expand its processed vegetable packaging and freezing operation in Lethbridge. The facility is estimated to cost $449,715 and is expected to create four new jobs.

Park Lane Foods Ltd. will receive $28,180 to establish the only bakery in Slave Lake, which will produce a full line of bread, buns, cakes, doughnuts and pastries. It is estimated to cost $93,936 and is expected to employ four people.

Barrhead Custom Meat Packers Ltd. will receive $11,493 to expand and modernize its premises in Barrhead. The project is estimated to cost $57,465 and to create one new job.

Andrewkow Farm Sales Ltd. of Ryley will receive $32,486 to expand its dry bulk fertilizer storage facility and to introduce custom blending. The capital cost of this project is estimated to be $203,038 and five new jobs are expected to be created.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE

Feed freight assistance, under the Alberta Feed Freight Assistance Program, will be available this year to farmers in the eastern part of the province and in the Peace River region. The forage crops in these areas were the most seriously affected by early drought conditions.

Freight assistance will be paid on feed that has to be moved more than 80 kilometres (50 miles) at the following rates: 13¢ per ton-mile for hay and straw; 5¢ per ton-mile for silage and 8¢ per ton-mile for cubed and pelleted roughage. The maximum assistance is $30 per ton on a one-way load, and the maximum assistance to one farmer, partner or corporation is $3,000.

The assistance is retroactive to July 1, 1980 and will run until March 31, 1981. The deadline for applications, which are available from district agriculturists, is April 30, 1981.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLDS COLLEGE OFFERS COURSES FOR CATTLEMEN

The Department of Continuing Education at Olds College is offering hoof trimming courses for cattle, a number of artificial insemination courses and a livestock merchandizing symposium between now and May, 1981.

The hoof trimming courses will emphasise the basics of hoof trimming and foot care and cover such things as the anatomy and physiology of feet and legs, the handling of cattle without a trimming table and the practical aspects of trimming the feet of live cattle. These courses are scheduled for November 18-21 and November 24-27. The fee is $165.

The eight-day artificial insemination courses will provide practice in technique and in semen handling, using straws and vials as well as information on nutritional requirements and sire selection. The courses are given in two sections of four days each to enable students to do extra work at home.

The dates are November 17-20 and 25-28 for dairy cattle and February 2-5 and 10-13 and February 16-19 and 24-27, 1981, for beef cattle. The fee for these courses is $178

The 15-day artificial insemination courses are designed to provide extensive practice in technique and semen handling as well as information on herd management, nutrition, sire selection, breeding programs, calving troubles, diseases and heat synchronization.

The dates for these courses are December 1-19 for dairy cattle and January 5-23, 1981, for beef cattle. The fee for these courses is $245.

One day refresher courses during which techniques and semen handling will be carefully checked, will be held on March 27, April 3, April 10 and April 24, 1981. The fee for the refresher courses is $36.

- (cont'd) -

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Olds College Offers Courses For Cattlemen (cont'd)

The livestock merchandizing symposium is scheduled for April 27 - May 1, 1981, and is designed to help high class beef cattle producers to do a better job of merchandizing purebred breeding stock. The feed is $150.

Further details and registration forms can be obtained from the Department of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, TOM 1PO.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT PRICE OUTLOOK

World wheat prices are expected to remain strong.

Les Lyster, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, expects prices to continue to increase from their current level until about March 1981, possibly by an additional $15 to $25 per tonne. By early 1981, the world wheat market can be expected to start taking significant direction from the 1981-82 crop prospects.

If any serious problem should develop in 1981-82 wheat crops in any of the major producing countries, particularly in America's winter wheat crop, a further strong upward price movement could be expected.

Mr. Lyster reports that total wheat supplies in the five major exporting countries — the United States, Canada, Australia, Argentina and the European Economic Community (EEC) — are estimated to be approximately 2 per cent below the 1979-80 level. Wheat supplies in the United States and the EEC are above last year's level, while supplies in Canada, Australia and Argentina are expected to be below the previous level.

World wheat trade is likely to surpass the record 1979-80 level and continued strong imports by the USSR and substantially higher levels of imports by China will be important factors. However, exports from Canada, Australia and Argentina during the 1980-81 crop year are expected to be below the 1979-80 level, which would leave the United States and, to a lesser extent, the EEC in a position to fill the gap left by these three major exporters.

Total world usage during the present crop year is forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture to be 447 million tonnes, which is slightly above the record usage experienced in the 1979-80 crop year. World wheat carryover stocks are forecast to be approximately 72 million tonnes, down by 6.8 million tonnes from the 1979-80 level. This would result in a rather tight stock/use ratio of about 16 per cent and would indicate a supply/demand balance similar to that experienced during the 1974-75 crop year.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YEAR END TAX PLANNING FOR FARMERS

by Merle Good
Financial Management, Alberta Agriculture

With 1980 drawing to a close, Alberta farmers should be thinking about income tax management. This year is especially unique as there are new amendments to the Income Tax Act which, if passed,* will allow farmers to reduce their tax bill.

One such amendment deals with spousal salaries for unincorporated businesses. If your wife helps in any way in the operation of the farm, it may be possible to pay her a salary and to have her wage treated as a deductible farm expense. Previously, this was possible only if the farm was incorporated and the wife was on the company's payroll. Once the budget becomes law, it is expected that the wife's salary deduction will be retroactive to January 1st of this year. Is it worth the extra paperwork?

The answer is definitely yes! At the present time all you can claim is the spousal marriage deduction of $2,530. By paying a salary, a spouse could, in 1980, receive a wage of up to $5,000 without any tax liability. This is due to her being able to claim the 3 per cent employment deduction and the basic and medical exemptions. The benefit depends upon your marginal tax rate. If, for example, you are in the 30 per cent tax bracket (i.e. paying 30c on the dollar) and you pay your wife $5,000, the reduction in your tax bill will be approximately $741. Net family income after tax is therefore increased by the $741 reduction in tax payable.

The exact wage to be paid depends on three main factors. First, only a reasonable amount can be paid. A good rule of thumb is to pay whatever you would pay someone else

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*On April 21, 1980, the Liberal government prepared a mini-budget which contained resolutions to amend the Income Tax Act. At the present time, this draft legislation has not been passed by parliament, but all indications are that it will become law shortly.

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to do the same job as your wife does. Secondly, a high salary may not necessarily return the most net family income after tax. Ask your accountant to calculate the most advantageous income split. Thirdly, the salary paid should not fluctuate widely from one year to the next unless the wife's responsibilities change accordingly. Revenue Canada is likely to question a salary of $5,000 one year and $15,000 the next. The same tax planning technique should be applied to your children. The money will remain in the family and can be used for clothing, dental bills or other expenses just as it was before.

In 1980, a child under 17 can be paid a salary of $1,910 without losing your basic exemption of $540. For every dollar earned over $1,910, the exemption level is reduced by 50¢. Children over 17 may earn up to $2,000 without reducing your basic exemption of $990. For every dollar earned over $2,000 the exemption is reduced dollar for dollar.

Again, depending on the circumstances, it may be to your advantage to get as much money into your children's hands as is reasonable. You may lose them as dependents, but the overall tax saving could be to your advantage. In fact, using 1979 figures, a salary of $5,000 paid to a child under 17 would have triggered a tax liability of only $58 in the child's hands. The net tax saving (assuming a 30 per cent tax bracket) would be $1,350. Sharpen your pencils, the money saved is your own!

Besides paying wages to family members and using the proposed amendments allowing spousal salaries, there are numerous other tax tips that will help decrease or, depending on your circumstances, increase this year's taxable income figure. Before implementing these techniques, double check the calculations used in determining your potential taxable income. Be sure that:

* All expense items are included. Do not forget those paid out in petty cash.
* Only interest can be deducted as a cash expense on loan payments. Payments on principal are not deductible.

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Year End Tax Planning For Farmers (cont'd)

* The business portion of the expenses is included. Remember that a quarter of house maintenance and utility expenses and up to two-thirds of car expenses can usually be deducted as business expenses.

* Individual tools and equipment purchased for more than $200 are reported as capital assets. Remember, this restriction is not based on an aggregate total of $200. For example, you could purchase two items valued at $150 each and deduct $300 as an allowable business expense.

* Loans received are not included as income.

* Government subsidies or rebates that were received are reported as income for the year, even if they were designed to reduce expenses or compensate for income losses in previous years.

Once you have determined what your projected taxable income is likely to be, the question to consider is "Do I want to adjust it, and if so, in which direction?"

To decrease net and taxable income your might consider the following strategies:

* Make payments on accounts payable and buy and take delivery of fertilizer, chemicals, feed, fuel and other supply items. These all have to be paid for by December 31 to be eligible as expenses.

* Postpone some sales or income. This is relatively easy to accomplish with grain by the use of deferred delivery tickets. It is also possible to both reduce your income and increase your expenses by using deferred cash tickets to settle debts. For example, a farmer takes a deferred delivery ticket for grain delivery in 1980 to his fertilizer dealer, endorses it, and gives it to the dealer to pay for the fertilizer he is purchasing for 1981. He gets the deduction in 1980 but the ticket is not

- (cont'd) -

Year End Tax Planning For Farmers (cont'd)

income until 1981. Do not forget to include the ticket in income for 1981 It could be missed quite easily because it will not show up as a deposit.

* Purchase machinery if you are going to need it next year. The capital cost allowance deduction and investment tax credit (if the purchase is eligible) can be claimed for the whole year.

* If you are trading in equipment, you may be able to arrange to have the dealer accept the trade-in after the year end, thereby delaying any possible capital gains on the trade, and at the same time, allowing you to claim capital cost allowance for one more year on the asset.

* If you have previously brought livestock inventory value into income with a livestock inventory provision (LIP), use it now to reduce income.

* If you are planning to transfer livestock to your son, consider giving him a lump sum for back wages. You might, for example, pay him $25,000 for back wages and he, in turn, could pay you $25,000 for the livestock. The transfer would then be made without you or your son incurring any taxable income because your $25,000 in receipts would be offset by the $25,000 in wage expenses. Likewise, your son's $25,000 wage receipts would be offset by his $25,000 in livestock expense.

The following strategies can be used to increase net and taxable income if you want to claim previous business losses or to insure that you use your personal exemptions.

* Purchase farm supplies on supplier credit.

* Sell livestock or feeds before the year end .

* Sell grain inventories.

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Year End Tax Planning For Farmers (cont'd)

* Use the livestock inventory adjustment provision. Farmers who have livestock and who file their income on the cash basis, can add to their year's income any amount up to the fair market value of livestock. (Except the basic herd on hand at the end of the taxation year.) However, the value added to this year's income must be deducted as an expense next year.

Other strategies such as the purchase of a registered retirement savings plan, a registered home owner's savings plan or an income averaging annuity contract can be used to reduce taxable income. In addition, a farmer can elect to use a five-year block average which levels out earnings over a period of five years and reduces the total tax burden. If a block average is being considered and any unused investment tax credit is available, Revenue Canada may allow you to claim this credit twice! (See business investment tax credit section of the Farmers' Income Tax Guide.) Still other important tax management strategies include various business arrangements, changing your fiscal year-end and the treatment of capital gains or losses.

There is a common misconception that good tax management means the use of any practice that will bring the bottom line on the tax form to zero! However, decisions made only on the basis of minimizing income taxes do not always give the most after-tax income. For example, a farmer may decide to reduce his income to avoid paying income tax. He can certainly do this, but he should realize that by depriving the government of 30¢ on a dollar when he is in the 30 per cent tax bracket, he will be depriving himself of 70¢ of potential net income. Who suffers most?

The best advice is to keep an accurate set of records and be familiar with the tax regulations. With a basic understanding of the tax rules, experience has shown that farmers are able to find mistakes or omissions in their tax return that only they are aware of. In addi-

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Year End Tax Planning For Farmers (cont'd)

tion, when approaching their accountant, lawyer or tax adviser, they will be in a better position to ask the right questions and to receive sound advice.

The farm business management branch has published a booklet entitled "Tax Management Strategies for Alberta Farmers" which deals with these and other topics in greater detail and is available from your local district agriculturist, regional farm economist or directly from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREIGHT RATE INCREASES ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Rail freight rates on most agricultural commodities were increased by 2 to 4 per cent during August and September. The rate increases during March and April were not enough, according to the railway companies, to cover costs.

The following rate increases were announced during the third quarter of this year.

- Fertilizer (export and domestic): 12 per cent on July 1.
- Agricultural Machinery and Implements: 2 per cent on August 1.
- Grain and Grain Products (domestic): 4 per cent on September 15.
- Seed: 4 per cent on September 15.
- Fruit and Vegetables: 4 per cent on September 15.
- Miscellaneous Foodstuff (frozen and dry): 3 per cent on September 15.
- Live Cattle: 2 per cent on October 1.
- Dressed Meat: 2 per cent on October 1.
- Alfalfa Pellets and Products: 4 per cent on November 1.

Truck Freight Rate Increases

Commercial truck transportation rates on the inter-provincial and intra-provincial movement of agricultural commodities were increased by 6 per cent on July 2. The main commodities affected were feed (animal/poultry), fruit and vegetables (fresh, frozen and cold pack), potatoes, livestock, meats (fresh/frozen), seed and twine.

Further information can be obtained from Nabi Chaudhary, Production Economics Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHEASTERN ALBERTA'S FIRST D.A. PASSES

by Laurent Gareau
Former section head of cereal and oil seed crops with Alberta Agriculture

Jean Marie Fontaine, a renowned agrologist who devoted a lifetime to the development of Agriculture and the welfare of Alberta farmers, passed away recently at his cottage on the shores of Moose Lake, near Bonnyville Beach, at the age of 75.

To his family, to his many friends, to the whole agricultural community and particularly to the members of Alberta Agriculture, the news of his death came as a shock. People like Mr. Fontaine are not supposed to die; they live forever and remain a legend in the historical annals of our province.

Mr. Fontaine was born and raised at St. Isidore, County of Dorchester, P.Q. He took his elementary and secondary schooling with "les Peres du St. Sacrement" and his professional training at the Agricultural College of Ste. Anne de la Pocatière. It was while he was a student at this institution in 1925 that he first came to Alberta with an excursion of harvest workers. Someone from Western Canada or some aspect of the country must have impressed or appealed to him because shortly after his graduation in 1927, he returned to marry Rosanna and to spend the rest of his life with her in this province.

He worked for seven years on farms in Alberta, first as hired help and then as farm manager for the Oblate Fathers' missions at Grouard and St. Albert. He was hired by the Alberta Department of Agriculture in 1934 and was sent to St. Paul to open the first district agriculturist office northeast of Edmonton, and to provide a full agricultural extension service to the farmers of that beautiful but rough country extending from St. Paul to Onion Lake, Cold Lake and Lac La Biche.

During the next 11 years, the early settlers and pioneers always welcomed the visit of l'Agronome Fontaine. They knew that he came to see them not only with a head full

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of sound information and advice, but mostly with a heart full of joy and enthusiasm. And nobody was better equipped that Jean Marie to pass on to the men and the women on the land in those secluded areas the spirit of hope and high morale that cannot be bought at any price.

In 1945 Mr. Fontaine was asked to open another office in Morinville. He was later transferred to the Edmonton office, from which he continued his effective and selfless work of agricultural education and counselling of farmers in northern Alberta, including the Peace River region, until his retirement in 1970.

During the last 10 years Mr. Fontaine remained active in spite of a serious heart condition. But no one would suspect this when watching his daily activities which included such things as opening up new land, tending a big garden, supervising a housing project, travelling or just simply "going fishing". His bubbling vitality, his sense of humor, his love of life, his charm and charisma left a trail of joy and happiness wherever he went.

"Jean Marie was a happy man", said Judge Déchêne at the funeral. "He was happy because he loved the work he was doing and felt that it made other people happy. I am sure he had a happy death because he died fishing, a sport he had enjoyed so much from his cherished cottage at Moose Lake."

Mr. Fontaine will be remembered by all for his devotion to God, his family, his community, and Alberta Agriculture, which he served so well for 36 years! His memory for those who had the opportunity to know him more intimately will be that of a good and generous man who gave them riches without asking anything in return.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNUAL CATTLEMEN'S SHORT COURSE

This year's cattlemen's short course, to be held at the Banff Centre in Banff from December 8 - 12, will feature the latest information on forage, nutrition and health.

Among the topics that will be covered are High Moisture Grain; Making Silage; Forage Management; Forage Breeding and Research; Nutritional Implications of Forage Preservation; Economics of Forage Equipment and Feeding Systems; Grass Fed Cattle; Using Forage in Feeding Systems; the Role of Beef Cattle as a Food Source in an Energy Conscious World; Respiratory Diseases; Maximizing Production in beef cows; Politics of Transportation (federal minister of transportation) and the Road Ahead.

All the speakers on these and other topics are experts in their various fields.

Further details on the short course and registration forms can be obtained from the Western Stock Growers' Association, Stockmen's Centre, Suite 101, 2116 - 27 Avenue, N.E, Calgary, Alberta, T2E 7A6.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC MANAGER APPOINTED

L.C. Ordze, chairman of the board of directors of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, has announed the appointment of David J. Schurman C.A., as manager of financial services.

Mr. Schurman will be located at the corporation's head office in Camrose and will be responsible for all financial, accounting and reporting systems activities. These activities are in support of the corporation's direct loan portfolio of $240 million, funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, and a total guarantee loan portfolio of some $210 million.

Mr. Schurman is a B.Comm. graduate of Sir George Williams University, Montreal, and a qualified chartered accountant. During the past 13 years, he has held senior financial positions in industry which included experience in Lethbridge, Alberta and in Ontario as well as with Industrial Enterprises Incorporated and the Prince Edward Island Development Corporation.

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November 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING STAFF APPOINTMENTS

H.B. McEwen, assistant deputy minister with Alberta Agriculture, has announced three recent additions to the staff of the international marketing group.

David J. Clarke, International Trade Director — Pacific/Asia

Mr. Clarke is responsible for the export of Alberta agricultural and food products and technical services to Japan and South East Asia. His work experience includes the Canadian Wheat Board and the federal departments of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Agriculture. His diversified assignments with Industry, Trade and Commerce included special assistant to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board and trade commissioner at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo. More recently, Mr. Clarke was chief of international marketing development in Agriculture Canada.

Clifford W. Wulff, International Trade Director — Europe

Mr. Wulff has assumed provincial government responsibility for agricultural exports to Europe and North Africa. His employment history is very appropriate to the position and includes fertilizer sales experience, general manager of the Prince Edward Island Land Development Corporation and development officer in the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion. For the past three years, Mr. Wulff has functioned as chief of the livestock, meat and dairy products division in Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Gerald L. Steinley, Senior Financial Officer

Mr. Steinley has assumed the position of senior financial officer. He succeeds Louis A. Normand who was promoted earlier in the year to international trade director — Latin America, Mid East and Africa. Mr. Steinley is responsible for administration in interna-

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International Marketing Staff Appointments (cont'd)

tional marketing, both internally and with respect to the group's financial assistance program of grants to Alberta exporters of agricultural and food products. Mr. Steinley also provides program and consulting assistance in the area of export credit. He brings significant financial administration and credit experience to Alberta Agriculture following a banking career, most recently as manager of the Spruce Grove branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

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AGRI-NEWS

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November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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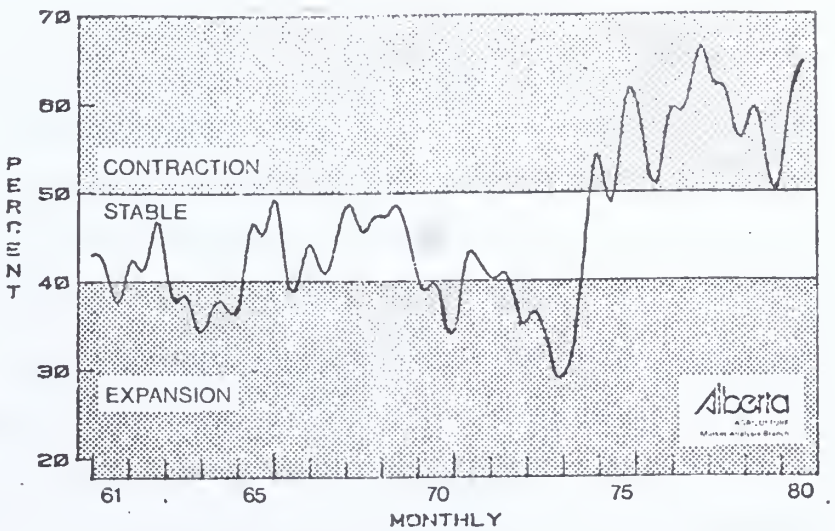
November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEIFER/STEER SLAUGHTER RATIO

by Bill Gray
Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture



Canadian Heifer/Steer Slaughter Ratio : Deseasonalized

Many industry observers believe that the North American cattle cycle, after six years of liquidation, has entered yet another expansion phase. Although official statistics in both the United States and Canada would tend to support this theory, there is serious doubt in our minds that the industry is expanding at a significant rate, particularly in Canada.

The general theory of expansion and contraction in the cattle industry suggests that there are definite factors which combine to influence producers' decisions. The most important consideration is the profitability of the cattle industry, particularly the cow-calf sector relative to other alternatives. Expansion or contraction of the beef herd is a decision which rests with the cow-calf producer. If returns in the cow-calf sector are good a producer will expand. If returns are poor, he will tend to maintain the number or actually liquidate a part of his herd.

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Heifer/Steer Slaughter Ratio (cont'd)

In forming an assessment of how profitable the cow-calf business actually is, a producer has a number of benchmarks at his disposal. They include:

- Current level of profitability compared with other farming alternatives or off-farm employment.
- Current level of profitability compared with the historical level of profitability.

The last expansion phase of the cattle industry was initiated in the late 1960's and continued through to 1974. That expansion was characterized by very poor returns in the grain sector and relatively high calf prices, which reached a peak in 1973. The sharp escalation in feed grain prices in 1973 and 1974 forced cattle feeders to bid down the price of calves in the fall of 1974. Steer calves which averaged $60-$65 per hundredweight in the fall of 1973 brought only $30-$35 per hundredweight in the fall of 1974. Many grain producers who had diversified into a cow-calf operation in the early 1970's chose to liquidate their herds because of the very poor level of profitability in the cow-calf sector and record high prices for feed grains. Many ranchers were also forced to cull heavily because of poor cash flows and very little incentive to expand. The North American cattle industry was well into one of its most severe liquidation phases by 1975.

As indicated earlier, both Canadian and U.S. sources suggest that the cattle herd is expanding. We have no more reliable means of estimating actual cattle inventories than these official statistical bodies. However, we have at least one indicator which would cast doubt on the prospect of any significant buildup in the cow herd based on the retention of heifers.

A major characteristic of an expansion phase is an increasing proportion of available heifers entering the breeding herd as opposed to moving into the slaughter market. While it is virtually impossible to determine the total heifer supply at any one time, it is possible to compare actual heifer slaughter to actual steer slaughter. These figures give us an indication of the proportion of available heifers moving into the slaughter market and the proportion of

Heifer/Steer Slaughter Ratio (cont'd)

available heifers being retained for breeding.

Throughout the 1960's heifer slaughter, expressed as a percentage of steer slaughter, generally ranged between 40 and 50 per cent. In the late 1960's and early 1970's an increased proportion of available heifers was retained for breeding, which led to a buildup in the Canadian cow herd that peaked in January of 1975. The liquidation phase initiated in 1975 led to an increased proportion of available heifers moving into the slaughter market. The rate of heifer slaughter reached a peak in late 1977 and early 1978 with 70 per cent of available heifers being destined for slaughter.

Historical patterns would tend to suggest that when the rate of heifer slaughter remains in the area of 40 to 50 per cent of the available supplies, the size of the cow herd remains relatively stable. A rate of slaughter below 40 per cent suggests a very aggressive rebuilding or expansionary period such as occurred in 1963-64 and in 1973-74. However, a rate of slaughter in excess of 50 per cent suggests a phase of herd liquidation with the number of heifers retained being insufficient to offset normal culling. Our suggestion that the cow herd is growing very little, if at all, is based on the fact that during the past six months Canadian heifer slaughter has been approaching 70 per cent of available supply, which is equal to the highest rate achieved in the recent liquidation phase.

November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARLEY PRICE OUTLOOK

Further increases in international barley prices are anticipated in the months ahead, and non-board prices are expected to have increased by $15 to $20 per tonne by mid-winter from their current level of around $120 per tonne.

Les Lyster, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says the Canadian barley supply/demand balance is expected to remain nearly as tight during the present crop year as it was in the 1979-80 crop year. However, barley supplies required to meet export and domestic needs are substantially improved compared with the serious shortage that was feared in early July.

Canadian barley stocks on July 31, 1980 were 2 million tonnes, which is the lowest they have been in the last 16 years. Total 1980-81 barley supplies are estimated at 12.9 million tonnes or 0.5 million tonnes below the 1979-80 level and the lowest they have been since the 1969-70 crop year. World coarse grain carryover stocks are expected to decline for the second consecutive year and the supply/demand balance is expected to be tight. This is primarily the result of the large decline in US feed grain production, particularly corn.

The use of barley for domestic feeding during the 1979-80 crop year is expected to be marginally below the 1979-80 level. This modest decline is mainly the result of expected lower cattle-on-feed numbers. Hog numbers are expected to be similar to, and possibly above, the 1979-80 level.

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November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG PRICE OUTLOOK

The Edmonton price for hogs is expected to increase from its current level of $68 to $69 per hundredweight to above $70 per hundredweight by December and to yield a fourth quarter average in the neighborhood of $70 per hundredweight.

According to Bill Gray, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, hog prices are forecast to continue to improve in January and February and to decline seasonally in March and April. They are predicted to peak at about $80 per hundredweight and to average out at around $75 during the first quarter of 1981.

October 1 hog inventories in Alberta totalled 1.3 million head, an increase of 10 per cent from the October 1979 level. The breeding stock inventory remained stable at 130,000 head, while the supply of market hogs increased by 11 per cent from the year earlier level to 1.2 million head. Farrowing intentions for the fourth quarter of this year and the first quarter of next year call for increases of zero per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

Bill Gray reports that Alberta processors have been slaughtering Saskatchewan hogs during the past year in addition to those from Alberta. Under an agreement which expired on November 9, approximately 150,000 hogs per year or 3,000 hogs per week have been moved from Saskatchewan into Alberta. According to Mr. Gray, it is not yet known whether the contract will be renewed, which means that even though Alberta production may continue to increase, a reduction in slaughter volume is a very real possibility.

A major revision of Canadian hog inventory estimates suggests that, contrary to the situation in the United States, the hog output in this country is unlikely to show a significant cyclical decline during the coming year. Statistics Canada's estimate of October 1, 1980 inventories indicates that there were 3 per cent more market hogs on farms than was the case

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Hog Price Outlook (cont'd)

a year ago, and that farrowings during the third quarter of this year were only 2 per cent below the year earlier level. This suggests a reasonably stable slaughter volume during the first quarter of 1981.

Relative to a year ago, Canadian hog producers have indicated that they intend to decrease farrowings by 3 per cent in the fourth quarter of this year and by only one per cent in the first quarter of 1981. This means that processors are assured of a continuing high volume of hogs through the third quarter of 1981. Anticipated increases in product prices in 1981 suggest that hog producers will maintain or increase farrowings throughout 1981, which will lead to continued high supplies into 1982.

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November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORDER BREEDER SEED NOW

Applications for obtaining breeder seed through the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) Select Plot Program must be received by the field crops branch at Lacombe before December 31, 1980.

Seed growers who wish to participate in the Select Plot Growing Program must have successfully produced the same pedigreed crop for the last three years or have successfully produced it for three out of the last five years. They wi'l then be eligible to apply for a variety of breeder seed of the kind of crop that they have had experience in growing.

The maximum plot size allowed for a beginner (probationary) select seed grower is one-half of a hectare (about one acre) and the minimum is one-quarter of a hectare (about half an acre).

The maximum plot size for an established select seed grower is one hectare (about 2 acres). An established select seed grower who wants to change from one variety to another in the same type of crop can request permission from CSGA in Ottawa to grow a select plot of both varieties for one season. However, the combined area of the two plots may not exceed one hectare.

Growers wishing to obtain breeder seed of a SeCan variety must apply directly to the SeCan Association, 1568 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario.

Application forms for ordering breeder seed and additional information on the Select Plot Growing Program can be obtained from Bill Witbeck, Secretary, Alberta Stock Seed Distribution Committee, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta, TOC 1SO. (Telephone: 782-4641).

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November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER STORAGE OF HERBICIDES

Herbicides carried over winter must be stored properly to avoid problems the following year.

Most liquid herbicides should be stored at temperatures above freezing. However, some herbicides which separate on freezing can be brought back into suspension, and, thus, made usable again, by warming them to room temperature (20-22° C) and agitating them thoroughly on several successive days before they are used.

The following herbicides must be kept in heated facilities and not allowed to freeze.

Afolan F	Cobex	MCPA Na
Amiben	Compitox	Mecoprop
Amines of 2, 4-D, MCPA	Cutrine	Mecoturf
AAtrex L	Dow General	Premerge
Alanap	Dycleer	Primatol Liquid
Amitrol T	Dycleer 24	Reglone
Asulox F	Dyvel	Ro-Neet
Avadex BW	Endaven	Sinox
Avenge 200-C	Estemines (2, 4-D, MCPA)	Stampede
Banvel	Gramoxone	Sweep
Banvel 3	Hoe Grass	TOK/RM
Benazolin	Killex	TOK E-25
Blagal	Kil-mor	Tordon 101
Brominal M	Mataven	Torpotox
Buctril M	MCPA K	Tropotox Plus

Note: Accidental freezing of some of the above products for a short period may not result in irreversible damage. If any are frozen, consult the label for possible methods of re-constituting the material.

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Winter Storage Of Herbicides (cont'd)

The following herbicides may be stored at freezing temperatures, but they must be returned to their original state by warming to room temperature and agitating thoroughly on several successive days before they are used.

Betanal
Betanex
Brushkill
Carbyne
Dytop
Embutox
Eptam 8-E
Eradicane
Estaprop
Kuron
Lasso
Lexone L
Lorox L
Esters of 2,4-D, MCPA, and 2, 4, 5-T
Roundup
Sencor 5F
Silvaprop
Sultan +
Tillam
Tordon 202-C
Treflan

The following herbicides, normally sold as granules or powders, are not usually damaged by freezing. They should be stored in a dry place.

Afolan WP
AAtrex WP
Amitrol
Amizine
Avadex BW 10G
Basfapon
Bladex WP
Bluestone
Calmix Pellets
Chloro-IPC G
Dalapon
Dowpon
Enide
Eptam 10G
Eramox
Hyvar X
Karmex
Krovar I
Lexone WP
Lorox WP
Maloran
Primatol WP
Primatol G
Princep WP
Sencor WP
Simmaprim
Sinbar
Tandex
TCA
Tenoran
Tordon 10K
Treflan 5G
Ureabor

(Information was obtained from the Crop Protection Newsletter, Vol. 3 (10), Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture).

November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOKKAIDO-ALBERTA BEEF EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Toshiyuki Takata of the Zen-Noh office in Los Angeles, U.S.A. visited Edmonton recently to discuss a new exchange program for youg beef cattle farmers with officials of Alberta Agriculture's extension division.

Zen-Noh of Japan is similar to Canada's Federated Co-operatives Ltd, and its Los Angeles office has been responsible for more than $2 million worth of Canadian exports this year. Dehydrated alfalfa and beef cattle have been two of the main exports.

The new Beef Exchange Program will be very similar to the already established Dairy Exchange Program under which up to 10 exchangees from Canada and Hokkaido, Japan, can spend a year learning about the dairy industry in the other's country. During the first year of the Beef Exchange Program three young Japanese beef farmers will come to Alberta and three young Alberta beef farmers will be invited to go to Hokkaido, Japan. Next year the number of exchangees from each country will be increased to 10.

Spence Goddard, program co-ordinator, says one of the main advantages of dairy and beef programs is that they enable the exchangees to become conversant with the customs and culture of their host country through living and sharing in the daily life of the farm family to which they are assigned.

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November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM MACHINERY PURCHASING COURSE SCHEDULED FOR RIMBEY

A farm machinery purchasing course will be held on the afternoons of November 26 and 27 in the community hall in Rimbey.

On the first afternoon Garry Bradshaw, Alberta Agriculture's regional economist at Red Deer, will discuss the cost of owning a machine, the tax implication of purchasing machinery and the financing of machinery purchases; while Mel Service, Farm Implement Act Inspector at Olds, will outline the Farm Implement Act and explain what a farmer's rights are under the act and what he should do when he has a problem.

On the second afternoon, Murray Green, Alberta Agriculture's farm machinery specialist at Airdrie, will talk about machinery size and the things you should consider when selecting a particular machine and the information that is available on this subject.

Donna Hawley, a Rimbey lawyer, will outline the legalities of purchasing farm machinery from a dealer and what should go into a contract. She will also discuss the laws that cover used machinery and the importance of investigating the owner's title for liens, etc.

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November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COPPER CLOVER CAMPAIGN

Alberta 4-Hers are busy collecting one million pennies or $10,000 for the Copper Clover Campaign which is raising the money for the 4-H centre at Battle Lake. Their deadline is November 26.

The Copper Clover Campaign is a 4-H foundation project which is being co-ordinated by provincial 4-H program services supervisor, Mahlon Weir. The suggestion for raising money in this way came from Georgina Bayes of Trochu, who got the idea from the 1979 Montana 4-H State Congress which she attended. She announced at the homecoming rally that she would cast a bronze plaque in memory of her late husband to commemorate the Copper Clover Campaign.

Alberta 4-Hers who attended the homecoming rally poured an estimated one thousand dollars in pennies into a eight gallon cream can, and the can weighed approximately 300 pounds!

The final penny pouring ceremony will take place at the provincial 4-H leaders conference on November 26 at the Convention Inn, South Edmonton, at 9.30 p.m.

Further information on the Copper Clover Campaign can be obtained from regional 4-H specialists and from Mahlon Weir at the provincial 4-H office in Edmonton (Telephone:427-2541).

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November 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT A FARMERS' MARKET

Whether you are looking for an expensive or an inexpensive Christmas present, or something in between, you have a good chance of finding it at one of Alberta's 85 farmers' markets. And you will be getting a unique article made by a craftsman, many of whom are real artists.

What will you find at a farmers' market? The answer is that you will find almost anything. Although the items vary from one market to another, the following list will give you some idea of the things that are available at these markets.

Crafts; handmade violins, wooden furniture and toys; petit point jewellery; quilts; home spun and dyed wool; doll houses and other articles made of wood; children's wear and other knitted goods; decorations; pottery and stained glass; fish smokers, gun racks; Christmas plants and trees; home made chocolates and candies; home baked goods and ethnic foods. Some of the markets will be featuring entertainment and many plan to have door prizes.

Watch your newspaper and bulletin board for information on your local market's pre-Christmas season plans. If you would like to have the location of other markets that are near you, contact the Commodity Development Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

Edmonton and Calgary residents can obtain information on most of the farmers' markets in Alberta and their special pre-Christmas sales from the December 3 issue of the "Edmonton Journal" and the "Calgary Herald", respectively. In the Edmonton Journal the information will be found under the heading "Food Shopper and Farmers' Markets" in column 470 in the classified section. In the Calgary Herald the same information will be found under the heading "Farmers' Markets and Food Basket" in column 573 in the classified section.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A WINTER LEARNING EXPERIENCE

For the 15th consecutive year the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) is offering a selection of information papers for home study.

They are as follows:

- Contracts In Plain Language — how to draw up a contract; terminology; forms contracts can take; procedures and steps to follow.
- Energy Conservation Techniques On The Farm — how energy is used on the farm; energy conservation techniques in food production; contacts, resource and publication information.
- Time Management For Farmers — setting priorities; decision making; organization of responsibilities and tasks; time planning; principles.
- Stress Management For Rural Residents — effects of stress; activities to reduce stress; how to recognize forms of stress; ideas on how to manage stress.
- Road To Retirement — information on planning for retirement; personal preparation techniques . . . financial, social and satisfying personal needs.
- Building Self-Esteem In Myself And Others — positive reinforcement; giving support to others; why self-esteem is important; confidence and assertiveness building.
- Helping Community Organizations Work Effectively — how to eliminate and reduce the power of out-dated concepts and introduce modern thinking without alienating members; how to handle work load; ideas on fund raising, how to contribute.
- Decision Making — positive steps to decision making; the process involved; things to avoid; making a decision and having a positive feeling.

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A Winter Learning Experience (cont'd)

- Values, Morality And Beliefs — provides a clearer understanding for young people on the core and important considerations for each of us?
- Seeing Canada On An Economy Budget — travelling modes; styles of travel; financial planning considerations; where to get information.

The charge for groups of five or more people is $1 per person for four papers or less. Additional papers cost 25¢ each. The charge for individual registrants is $2 which entitles them to any of the 1980-81 papers. Additional papers cost 25¢ each. The charge for individual registrants is $2, which entitles them to any four of the 1980-81 papers. Additional papers cost 50¢ each.

The REDA winter study program is made possibly by the continued support of Unifarm, Federated Co-operatives Ltd., the Co-operators and Credit Union Central and Alberta Agriculture.

Registration information and brochures are available from:

Rural Education and Development Association
9934 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 1C4.
Phone: 423-1617

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AGRI-NEWS

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November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM CASH RECEIPTS

by Phil Jensen
Economic and Marketing Services, Alberta Agriculture

The outlook for farm cash receipts and net income in 1980 has improved steadily as the year has progressed. Increased grain prices and a substantially higher grain and oilseed movement are expected to raise farm cash receipts to $3,214 million, up 13 per cent from 1979. Steady cattle prices and increased hog marketings will also be contributing factors to the improved outlook for 1980.

Farm cash receipts from both wheat and barley will set records this year. International and domestic prices for wheat have fluctuated in 1980 but the average price for the year is still expected to be significantly higher than it was in 1979. Wheat deliveries at primary elevators in Alberta during the period January-July, 1980, were 68 per cent higher than was the case in the same period a year earlier. The addition of several thousand hopper cars, combined with improvements coordinated by the Grain Transportation Authority, were the main contributing factors behind this sharp increase in Alberta wheat receipts. Wheat prices are expected to remain strong into 1981 and restrictions on deliveries should be minimal throughout most of next year. Farm cash receipts from wheat in 1980 are projected to be $660 million, up 46 per cent from 1979.

Barley farm cash receipts will also be at a record level in 1980. Alberta barley moved to export markets in steadily increasing amounts during the 1970's, and this has contributed to higher farm cash receipts for this crop. International feed grain prices strengthened during 1980 which resulted in an increase in the initial payment for barley from approximately $84.37 per tonne to $114 per tonne. The initial payment is the first payment made by the Canadian Wheat Board to Prairie farmers and traditionally represents about 75 per cent of the

- (cont'd) -

Farm Cash Receipts (cont'd)

expected total export price. This increase in the initial payment, combined with an increased movement of barley, will result in barley farm cash receipts of $333 million in 1980, an increase of 35 per cent from 1979.

Farm cash receipts from rapeseed are expected to decline somewhat in 1980. Alberta farmers reduced their seeded acreage of rapeseed by more than one third in response to higher farm stocks, declining prices and management problems with production. Prices have recovered somewhat from the level experienced in the first half of 1980, but the yearly average price will still be $20 to $30 per tonne lower than it was in 1979. Rapeseed deliveries to primary elevators and crushers are expected to approximate 1979 levels. Farm cash receipts from rapeseed are projected to be $292 million, down $50 million from 1979.

Farm cash receipts from rye and flaxseed are both expected to increase sharply in 1980. Deliveries of flaxseed and rye will be up 35 per cent and 65 per cent respectively. Rye prices will probably average $40 per tonne higher than in 1979 and flaxseed prices should average about the same as those of last year. Farm cash receipts in 1980 are projected to be $23 million for rye and $24 million for flaxseed, which represent increases of 77 per cent for rye and 33 per cent for flaxseed over 1979 totals.

Farm cash receipts from sugar beets are expected to increase substantially in 1980 A significant increase in the world price for sugar has resulted in higher payments to Alberta producers, and farm cash receipts are projected to be $41 million in 1980, up from $21 million in 1979.

Farm cash receipts from cattle and calves are expected to remain at about the same level as they were in 1979. Slaughter cattle prices have recovered from a decline in the second-quarter and are expected to continue strong into 1981. The average price for slaughter cattle in 1980 should be very close to the average estimated price of $72 per hundredweight

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Farm Cash Receipts (cont'd)

achieved in 1979. Marketings of slaughter cattle to date have also remained at about the same level as in 1979 with the possibility of a slight decrease for the year as a whole. Farm cash receipts from cattle and calves are projected to be $1,174 million, down slightly from $1,181 million in 1979.

The outlook for farm cash receipts from hogs has improved in the last few months. Increasing North American hog supplies resulted in a sharp drop in prices in the spring of 1980, but hog supplies are now expected to decline in the U.S.A. over the next few months. This should result in better prices than were previously anticipated. Hog marketings in Alberta have also been higher than expected, and this, combined with somewhat higher prices, should result in a slight increase in 1980 farm cash receipts. Farm cash receipts from hogs are projected to be $176 million in 1980, up $9 million from 1979.

Total farm cash receipts in 1980 are projected to be $3,214 million, up from $2,836 million in 1979.

However, a steady rise in interest expenses, energy-related costs and inflation will affect farm expenses in 1980 and 1981. The present year will probably be remembered as one of the worst in recent history in terms of interest rates and increases in inflation. Total operating expenses and depreciation charges are projected to be $2,343 million, an increase of 14 per cent compared with 1979.

In spite of steadily increasing expenses, realized net income in 1980 is projected to be $908 million. This represents an increase of almost 12 per cent from 1979 and would set a record for realized net farm income.

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November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF PRICE OUTLOOK

The present seasonally high hog run is expected to hold beef prices at their current level during November. However, in December increased hog prices should allow beef prices to producers to return to the $80 per hundredweight level, and to yield a fourth quarter average of $78 to $80 per hundredweight, basis A1 and A2 steers in Calgary.

Bill Gray of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch reports that American hog prices are forecast to peak in the neighborhood of $55 per hundredweight in the first quarter of 1981, which suggests that beef prices will again benefit from reduced competition. He points out that the recent recovery in Canadian slaughter cattle prices can be attributed to an increase in the strength of the American beef market. He says the threat of higher exports to the United States led to higher Canadian prices which were absorbed by consumers.

According to Mr. Gray, the stronger beef market in the United States is not the result of a lower level of beef production, but rather to a stable level of pork production and to a 3 per cent decline in poultry production. The prices of these competing meats escalated sharply during the third quarter with barrows and gilts averaging $46.23 per hundredweight compared with $31.18 per hundredweight in the second quarter. This represents an increase of 48 per cent at the producer level. Similarly, the producer price of broilers jumped to 53.3¢ per pound in the third quarter from 41.1¢ per pound in the second quarter, representing a 30 per cent increase.

Pork and poultry production processes are characterized by the fact that they have no alternative but to use carefully prepared rations based on grain and protein supplements. The recent increase in American corn and soybean prices dictate that prices to producers will have to remain higher if production is to remain at its current level. "We know", says Mr. Gray, "that American pork production is forecast to decline during the first three quarters of 1981

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Beef Price Outlook (cont'd)

which suggests a further increase in prices. Although poultry production can adjust more rapidly than either beef or pork, prices will have to stay at their current levels or go higher before producers will increase the number of chicks they place. Hence, a reduction in the level of pork production and an increase in pork and poultry prices will permit beef prices to increase in the coming months."

The Canadian beef industry has been running near capacity during the last six months and the proportion of heifers destined for slaughter has been running at a record level. Any significant reduction in beef supplies would be based on an increased proportion of available heifers being retained for breeding. However, recent increases in North American feed costs have limited the ability of feeder cattle prices to share in the general increase in beef prices with the result that there is limited incentive for producers to retain their heifers for breeding. Consequently, beef price increases throughout 1981 will be based on a reduction in competition from pork and poultry as opposed to any fundamental reduction in beef supplies.

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November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED PRICE OUTLOOK

Alberta country elevator bids for rapeseed are expected to increase from their present level of around $290 per tonne to the $315 to $330 range by early 1981.

According to Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch the 1980 Canadian rapeseed crop is estimated at 2.43 million tonnes, which represents a 29 per cent drop compared with the 1979 crop. Alberta's 1980 crop is estimated to be approximately 1.09 million tonnes or 45 per cent of the total Canadian production. Mr. Lyster says this year's higher yields in Alberta only partially offset the reduced acreage.

Total 1980-81 Canadian rapeseed supplies are expected to be 3.88 million tonnes, which is 13 per cent below the 1979-80 level. Domestic crush and rapeseed exports for the 1980-81 crop year are expected to be around one and 1.5 million tonnes respectively. Carryover stocks on July 31, 1981 are likely to be about 25 per cent below the 1979-80 level.

Mr. Lyster says world oilseed production during 1980-81 is estimated at 161.7 million tonnes or 14.5 million tonnes below the record 1979-80 crop. Most of the decline is the result of the drought-reduced American soybean crop.

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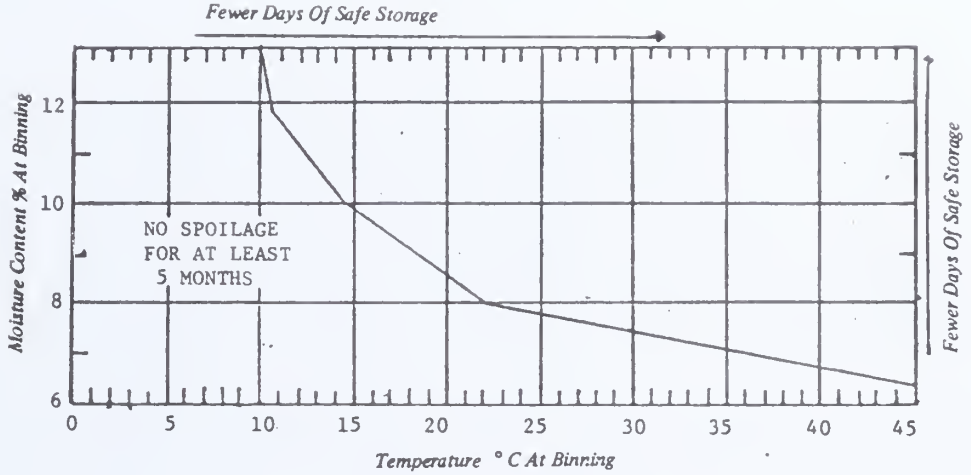
November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BINNED RAPESEED – SAFE FOR STORAGE?

by Murray Green
Alberta Agriculture's Farm Machinery Engineer, Airdrie

The rapeseed you harvested this fall was probably safe to put into storage; or was it? Much of it was harvested close to the acceptable "dry" moisture level of 10 per cent, but the warm sunny weather caused rapeseed temperatures to rise as high as 30 ° C and higher. One can see from the following chart, prepared by Agriculture Canada and the University of Manitoba, that a high temperature can cause spoilage.



The reason that grain, and especially oilseed crops, heat in storage is that the micro-organisms on the grain continue to live and produce heat and moisture. How active the microbes are, and whether or not they will cause grain heating, depends upon the moisture content and the temperature of the grain itself. The high temperatures at which rapeseed was harvested in Alberta this fall will keep the micro-organisms active and could cause heating in the bin.

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Binned Rapeseed – Safe For Storage? (cont'd)

The heating situation in rapeseed bins is also more critical this fall because the rapeseed contains many green kernels present as well as cracked kernels and weed seeds which may contain a high level of moisture.

Frequent checks on binned rapeseed will indicate problems as they develop, thereby facilitating action to avoid loss or damage. The action taken should be to reduce the rapeseed temperature and moisture level if the moisture level is above 10 per cent.

A grain temperature probe should be inserted into the rapeseed at several locations so that any isolated pockets of heating may be detected. The critical location for heating is approximately in the center of the bin and between the mid-height and the surface of the rapeseed.

To determine a safe storage condition, the rapeseed moisture content should be rechecked and the temperature and moisture data plotted on the above chart. If the temperature is rising or exceeds 30° C at any location in the bin, the quickest way to solve the problem is to turn the rapeseed by augering it into another bin or into a truck and then into a second bin. If the rapeseed has a moisture content of more than 12 per cent, it should be dried before being rebinned.

The colder the outside air, the more effective the "turning" operation will be Since the outside relative humidity has little effect on the moisture content when the rapeseed is already hot, early morning is a good time to drop the rapeseed through the air. It may have to be augered several times in succession to lower the temperature to below 15° C. A more effective way of doing this is to install an aeration duct in the second bin before putting in the warm rapeseed. The aeration fan can then finish the cooling operation. It may also remove a small amount of moisture.

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Binned Rapeseed — Safe For Storage? (cont'd)

In-storage aeration is a sure method of maintaining the quality of rapeseed or any other bulk grain. Units may be installed just before the bin is filled or they may be permanently installed flush with the bin floor. The fan can be connected to any one of several duct systems when aeration is needed.

Normal airflow rates for aeration are 1.3 L/s - 2.6 L/s for each cubic metre of stored grain (1/10 - 1/5 cfm per bushel). These rates should not be confused with those used in natural air drying which requires much higher airflow rates. The fan on a rapeseed aeration unit must produce the required airflow against a static pressure of 100 Pa per metre (0.13 inch water per foot) depth of rapeseed to 130 Pa for Argentine and Polish varieties respectively. Seventy tonnes of rapeseed in a bin filled to a depth of 5 metres, for example, would require the fan to produce 280 L/s at 625 - 750 Pa pressure.

The length of time the aeration fan must run depends upon the temperature and the moisture of the rapeseed as well as upon the temperature and relative humidity of the outside air. If a temperature probe or monitor and moisture tester are available, they may be used to check on the cooling operation and to indicate when safe conditions have been reached. If there is any question, it is better to cool too much. A bin containing 70 tonnes (3,000 bushels) of rapeseed with a moisture level of 10 per cent and at a temperature of 30 ° C is well within the range of potential spoilage. At an airflow rate of 280 L/s (600 cfm), it would take 65 hours of fan operation to cool the rapeseed if the outside air was cooler than 15 ° C and had a relative humidity of less than 65 per cent. During such an operation the moisture content would drop by about 0.5 per cent.

The temperature of the rapeseed may drop to a safe level (15 ° C) but the moisture content could still be higher than 10 per cent. As long as the aeration system can maintain a low temperature, it can be used to remove a small amount of moisture from the rapeseed

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Binned Rapeseed — Safe For Storage? (cont'd)

if the outside relative humidity remains below the 65 | 70 per cent range. An aeration system should not be relied upon to dry grain.

There are many aeration systems to choose from. When aerating in cool weather, it is best to draw the air down through the grain and exhaust the warm, moist air through the fan. This prevents condensation under metal bin roofs and interrupts the normal migration of moisture within the grain. Consideration should be given to building aeration capabilities into any new grain bin or storage system. The cost is low and the benefits are high!

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November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED TESTING EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THIS YEAR

by Ron Weisenburger
Head, Animal Nutrition Section, Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory

Feed testing and the proper use of feed test results can play an important part in helping producers to make the best use of their feeds. Under-feeding livestock will limit their production, while over-feeding is a waste of resources. Feed test results will help you to determine what supplements are needed and the amount of these supplements that should be used in your feeding program.

In a year like this one, when weather conditions have been extremely variable across the province, feed testing is even more important than usual. The wide range of analyses obtained from samples submitted this year to Alberta's Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton reflects the type of weather conditions we have had. Grain samples, for example, are ranging all the way from good bushel weights and protein contents on some of the early harvested crops to very low bushel weights and protein levels in grains that have been frozen and/or rained on in the swath. We have also seen a similar kind of distribution of analysed values on forages. Weathered forages, indicated by condition and by a high fibre level, will be a problem for many producers this year.

We know that hay which has been rained on between cutting and harvesting is of a lower quality than hay that has not been rained on. However, most of us do not realize just how great that difference can be. Digestibility trials performed at the University of Alberta last winter revealed that the combined effect of decreased consumption and decreased available energy in feed that had received 1½ inches of rain between cutting and harvesting can reduce energy intake by as much as 30 per cent compared with hay that had not been rained on. Similarly, we know that the more mature that hay is when it is harvested, the lower its

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Feed Testing Even More Important This Year (cont'd)

energy and protein content will be.

While we know these general effects of poor quality grains and forages, it is important to know just how bad or how good feeds actually are this year. Contact your local district agriculturist for more information about feed sampling. He also has a supply of feed testing kits, feed information sheets and ration recommendation request forms.

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November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST CANADIAN ET BULL SUCCESSFULLY A.I. PROVEN

Western Matt born September 12, 1974, was the first embriotransplant (ET) Holstein bull to be born and registered in Canada. He was bred by Sam Chalack and family of Cochrane, Alberta, and was a planned mating for Western Breeders Service. He is a son of a No-Na-Me Fond Matt and Sandy Crest Rag Apple Ann. The "Ann" cow is famous throughout Canada as a 30,000-pound milk and 1,300-pound fat producer. She is an "Excellent" daughter of Seiling Rockman.

Western Matt has several "firsts" to his credit. In addition to being the first ET Holstein bull born and registered in Canada, he is the first ET bull to be classified "Excellent" and the first with a milk proof of +5, a fat rating of +8, a test deviation of +.07 and a final type class of +7.

Western Matt is owned by Western Breeders Service, Balzac, Alberta, and 20 Alberta Holstein Breeders.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL FIREBLIGHT CONTROL

Did any of your trees or shrubs have fireblight last season? Did you remove the infected branches and twigs at that time? If you did not, this is a good time to do so.

When pruning is done after the trees have shed their leaves in the fall, there is less chance of spreading the disease because the fireblight bacteria in affected tissues have stopped multiplying. All blighted shoots and limbs should be removed as they represent a source of infection for the following year.

Because blighted branches often retain their leaves, they can be easily distinguished from healthy ones. Bark discoloration and sunken cankers are other symptoms of fireblight.

When removing an infected branch, cut at least 10 inches below the discolored area, sterilize your pruning tools between each cut with a disinfectant and cover the surface of a large branch with pruning paint. A tree that is badly infected with fireblight should be removed altogether to prevent the disease from spreading to healthy trees next season.

More detailed information on fireblight control is contained in Garden Fax entitled "Fireblight" (No.275/637-2), available from Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUNSCALD PROTECTION FOR TREES

A white exterior latex paint can be used to protect trees against winter sunburn or sunscald.

There are many kinds of fruit and ornamental trees that are susceptible to this condition, especially when they are young because their bark is still relatively thin and they have no canopy of branches to provide shade.

The old way of protecting such trees was to wrap their trunks and larger branches with strips of burlap or sisal kraft paper, but this method is much more time consuming than simply painting the trunks and larger branches with latex paint. Oil-based paints are not recommended because they may injure the trees. Thiram can be added to the white exterior latex paint to protect the tree or trees from rabbits and rodents.

When a large number of trees are involved, the paint can be applied with a relatively simple boom. Plans for its construction can be obtained from the Library, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, TOJ OJO.

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November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTH-CENTRAL WEED CONTROL CONFERENCE

Scientists representing universities, experimental stations and industry from 14 midwestern American states and three Western Canadian provinces will gather in Omaha, Nebraska from December 9-11 to discuss the results of their research in the area of weed control.

This annual meeting of the North-Central Weed Control Conference provides researchers from North America's heartland with an opportunity to compare notes and to probe the future.

Dr. James W. Herron, first vice-president of the North-Central Weed Control Conference and professor of agronomy at the University of Kentucky, says that "this year's program is filled with many exciting topics that should stimulate a lot of thinking and discussion among researchers."

Opening session of the conference will feature Dr. G.F. Warren, professor emeritus at Purdue University, who will discuss "Weed Science: Looking at the Last Decade." Dr. W.D. Carpenter, director, environmental operations for the Monsanto Company, will speak on "Weed Science in the '80s – the Possibilities of Failure, Survival or Success."

Those interested in attending the 1980 North-Central Weed Control Conference are invited to write for additional information to the conference office, which is located at 309 West Clark Street, Champaign, IL 61820, U.S.A.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN CANADIAN AGRICULTURE IN THE EIGHTIES

A task force report based on a comprehensive study of the agricultural industry, and entitled "Western Canadian Agriculture in the Eighties", will be released at the Canada West Foundation's conference at the Convention Centre in Calgary on December 5. The study was commissioned by the foundation, which is a pro-Canada, non-partisan and non-profit research organization.

The report examines potential production demands and trends as well as the numerous constraints that inhibit these developments. It also makes some strong recommendations aimed at enabling the agricultural industry to fulfil its potential for balanced growth. Based on more than 30 background studies, the report was compiled by a seven-member task force that was formed in January, 1979, under the chairmanship of Saskatchewan's former deputy minister of agriculture, Harold Horner.

The registration fee for the conference is $85. It includes lunch and a copy of the task force report. People who are not able to attend the conference but who would like a copy of "Western Canadian Agriculture" can obtain one for a price of $10 from the Canada West Foundation, 245 West Palliser Square, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 1K1.

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November 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL FARM TRAINING SPECIALIST APPOINTED FOR FAIRVIEW

Wally Klatt, head of Alberta Agriculture's training and development branch, has announced the appointment of Louise Ross to the position of regional farm training specialist in the Fairview region where she will administer the Green Certificate Farm Training Program and work closely with trainees, farmers and professional agricultural personnel.

Ms. Ross was raised on a dairy farm in the Camrose area. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1973 with a B.Ed, having majored in science.

After graduating, she taught school, worked on her family's dairy farm and travelled through Europe, Africa and New Zealand. Some of her travelling was done under the auspices of the International Agricultural Exchange Association. She joined Alberta Agriculture in October of this year.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

AGRINEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
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November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION RETURNS VERY FAVORABLE

A recent cost and returns survey involving 20 sugar beet growers in southern Alberta has revealed that the growing of sugar beets is providing increasing returns relative to other field crops.

A recent market analysis report points out that the cost of producing a tonne of sugar beets was $33.01 per tonne last year, or $5.49 per tonne higher than in 1978, but that the income received from sugar beets increased from $37.98 per tonne in 1978 to $64.50 per tonne in 1979. This figure does not include the final payment for the 1979 crop which is anticipated on January 1, 1981. Non-land costs increased by 28.8 per cent in 1979 compared with those recorded the previous year. However, the higher yields obtained in 1979, coupled with higher sugar prices, have more than offset these higher costs.

Bob Prather of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch says that grower price prospects for both the 1979 and 1980 crops are exceptional at this point. He believes that the final payment that is expected in early 1981 could push total returns for 1979 to above $70 per tonne. The initial payment for the 1980 crop will probably reach a record level as well, but development in world markets will determine the extent to which prices paid for the 1980 crop approach those of the 1979 crop.

The detailed cost and return data contained in the market analysis report show that economies of size are evident in the area of labor and machinery expenses. The larger farms are able to produce beets at a lower cost through the more intensive use of materials and other management practices, and are, thus, experiencing higher net returns than the smaller operations.

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November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POTATO PRICE OUTLOOK

Alberta potato grower returns will definitely be higher for the 1980 crop than they were for the 1979 crop because of a significant reduction in both the Canadian and American fall crops and because of buoyant early season markets.

Bob Prather of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch says the competitive position of growers in the Alberta table potato market will be enhanced by significantly higher prices competing for supplies and continuing transportation cost advantage to local shippers. However, overall supplies could fall short of requirements if prospects in the processing, table and seed markets meet current expectations and prices fail to adequately ration available supplies.

"Prices for uncontracted processing quality potatoes will be much higher than those of last year and there is a possibility that these supplies will not be sufficient to meet market requirements," Mr. Prather says. Last year there was an estimated 3.3 million hundredweight of marketable potatoes with just over 2 million hundredweight going to the processors and the balance to the table potato and seed markets. This year Alberta's marketable potato production is not expected to be much over 3.1 million hundredweight and prices are expected to be the rationing factor, especially as spring approaches.

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November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COCCIDIOSIS IN BABY PIGS

Be vigilant! That is the word from the head of Alberta Agriculture's animal disease section, Dr. Byron Beck, to Alberta hog producers concerning coccidiosis in baby pigs.

No cases of this parasitic infection have yet been diagnosed in Alberta, but it is now in Manitoba. The first case was confirmed in that province in 1979 and more than a dozen cases have been diagnosed this year.

Dr. Beck points out that coccidiosis is one of the causes of neonatal diarrhea, which in turn, is one of the main causes of baby pig losses. In the major pig-producing areas of the United States, coccidiosis accounts for about 12 per cent of neonatal diarrhea losses.

It is for this reason that Dr. Beck warns Alberta producers to be on the lookout for it. He says "If an outbreak of diarrhea does not respond to treatment, a live piglet that has just started to scour or one that appears to be unaffected from an infected litter should be sent to the Animal Health Laboratory in Edmonton." Only in this way can an accurate diagnosis be made and further losses, contamination of subsequent litters and the spread of the condition to other herds be prevented.

Dr. Beck says coccidiosis can be present in adult pigs at a subclinical level without causing any apparent symptoms, but a sow that is contaminated will infect her litter. When coccidiosis is present in baby pigs, the death rate is usually very high because a baby pig that has diarrhea quickly becomes dehydrated. A contaminated animal sheds tiny eggs in its manure which are injested by other animals, and the eggs appear to be carried from one place to another on a person's boots and via feed. In fact, they may even be blown into clean pens by a disinfectant sprayer.

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November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE GRANT DEADLINE

The Agricultural Research Council of Alberta has announced that the deadline for 1981 applications for Farming for the Future grants is December 1, 1980.

Farming for the Future is a commitment by the Alberta Government, through the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, to support agricultural research that is of benefit to Alberta.

Financial assistance is available for studies which have the potential of leading to increased agricultural productivity and the improvement of net farm income as well as the long term viability of agriculture in Alberta.

Eligible research includes programs which have the potential of meeting these goals and which would probably not be undertaken without support. Significance to northern agriculture is of major importance. Competence to carry out a proposed program and a commitment to complete it must be demonstrated.

For further information, contact:

Agricultural Research Council of Alberta
Agriculture Building
9718-107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2C8
(Telephone: 427 - 1956)

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November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALTAI WILD RYE GRASS – A PROMISING FORAGE

by Allen Toly
Alberta Agriculture's District Agriculturist at Claresholm

Altai Wild Rye, *Elymus angustus*, is a native of Western Siberia that was introduced into Canada from Siberia in 1934. It was first grown in Western Canada in 1950. Agriculture Canada's research station at Swift Current released the variety "Prairieland" in 1956 and commercial seed first became available in 1979.

Altai Wild Rye is a winter hardy, drought-tolerant, long-lived perennial forage. It has coarse erect basal leaves and seed heads 5 to 7 inches long on nearly naked, coarse stems that are two to four feet long. The plant is generally a bunch type, but the roots are somewhat creeping. The deep root system makes it well adapted to areas with a water table within 10 to 14 feet of the soil surface, and it can withstand saline conditions. In fact, it tolerates as much salinity as tall wheat grass.

Despite it's coarseness, Altai Wild Rye is eaten by sheep and cattle as readily as other introduced grasses. It's good curing qualities and erect growth of the basal leaves make it especially useful for fall and winter grazing.

The seed of Altai Wild Rye is about three times as large as that of Russian Wild Rye or crested wheat grass. This larger seed allows it more seedling vigor and enables it to emerge better from deeper seeding than other grasses.

As with the Russian Wild Rye, most leaves are basal, thus making the forage difficult to harvest as hay. Altai is well suited to pasture production and the Swift Current station has found that cattle make satisfactory gains during September and October. In the winter months of November, December and January, cattle maintained their weight while grazing Altai Wild Rye supplemented with oats.

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Altai Wild Rye Grass – A Promising Forage (cont'd)

Three demonstrations fields of Altai Wild Rye, from eight to 10 acres in size, were sown on ranches in the M.D. of Willow Creek in 1979. The seeding rates varied from 5 to 10 pounds per acre and the rows were spaced 12 to 21 inches apart. Vigorous seedling establishment was the first benefit we noticed. On the heavy black soil on our most westerly site, the crop had reached a height of 24 inches four months after establishment. Other rye grasses, such as Russian Wild Rye, have done poorly on these heavy soils. I see Altai Wild Rye as being of major benefit in the western areas of Alberta as well as being beneficial in the drier areas. It also establishes well, but with less growth on a site to the east and in the drier part of the municipality. The creeping characteristic was very evident just one year after establishment.

Unfortunately Altai is not a heavy seed producer, and this characteristic has kept seed prices quite high. At present there are two certified producers in Alberta and seven in Saskatchewan.

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November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS RELEASED

Alberta Agriculture's horticulture branch has released the proceedings of the Alberta Horticulture Conference, which was held earlier this year in Calgary.

The policy-oriented conference, which brought together producers, processors, retailers, wholesalers, government and consumers, critically examined the future of Alberta's horticultural industry during the decade of the 1980's. It challenged the industry to be positive in its outlook and to meet the demands of the market.

The keynote presentation by Daryl Arnold, president, Western Growers Association, emphasized the fact that increasing transportation costs, labor legislation and overall productivity will have a significant impact on the availability of fresh produce in the Alberta market from California and Arizona.

Non-conventional means of food production using "controlled environment agriculture" techniques were discussed in relation to the Alberta energy situation, by Merle Jensen of the Environmental Research Laboratory, Tucson, Arizona. The availability of waste heat in Alberta and its use appears a logical way of increasing the home-grown production of vegetable crops. Energy conservation technology can also be expected to significantly improve greenhouse production efficiency in Alberta.

Producing the commodities which can be produced best and most efficiently and meet the market demand was advocated for Alberta growers by Paul Soulier, president, Scott National Company. A recognition of the change in the market place, including the increasing shift to food service, must constitute part of the industry's marketing strategy.

The value of sound industry organization in dealing with government and consumer concerns and in the development of effective production and market policies was identi-

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Horticultural Conference Proceedings Released (cont'd)

fied as a major factor in promoting horticulture in the 1980's by Bill Daman, executive vice-president of the Canadian Horticultural Council.

"The 80's What's in the Alberta Store?" -- the conference theme -- and the underlying theme that producers must lend direction to industry growth, and that government will support such growth, is recognized in the commodity workshop recommendations.

Copies of the proceedings and further information can be obtained from T.R. Krahn, Conference Chairman, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO.

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November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 ALBERTA 4-H SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The following 4-H'ers either have received or will shortly be receiving scholarships for outstanding scholastic and 4-H achievements in 1980.

Canadian National Exhibition

Jady Grad
R.R. No.1
Leduc

Alberta Wheat Pool (first year)

Barbara Hecht
R.R. No.1
Clive

Roxana Kress
Box 152
Hays

Alberta Wheat Pool (second year)

Valerie Jones
Box 190
Ponoka

Jacqueline Longson
R.R. No.2
High River

World of Beef

Theodore Klymok
Box 163
St. Michael

Inga Marr Memorial

Roger Copithorne
Box 9, Site No.1
R.R. No. 2
Calgary.

Norma Jean Gray Memorial

Karen Bayes
R. R. No.2
Trochu

Hoechst Canada Bursary

Mari Nakamura
R.R. No.1
Morinville

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

1980 Alberta 4-H Scholarship — Winners (cont'd)

Central Alberta Dairy Pool

Mark Cameron
Box 123
Crossfield

Jane Martz
Box 72
Heisler

Pennington Memorial

Luke Burlet
Cherhill

Suzanne Chebry
R.R. No.1
Barrhead

Alberta Wheat Board Surplus Moneys Trust Scholarships

Vermilion Region

Maurice Smith
Box 538
Vermilion

Shelley Pruss
Box 90
St. Michael

Stettler Region

Marie Hoff
Box No.1
Metiskow

Shelley Sommer
Box 31
Heisler

Calgary Region

Theresa Praeker
Box 335
Strathmore

Bette-Jean McElroy
Box 127
Hussar

Peace Region

Shelly Sandul
Box 220
Spirit River

Tanice Besse
Box 126
Falher

Barrhead Region

Joyce Borle
R.R. No.1, Site 2
St. Albert

Suzanne Bildeau
Box 56
Vimy

- (cont'd) -

1980 Alberta 4-H Scholarship Winners (Cont'd)

Red Deer Region

Toby Williams
R. R. No.2
Ponoka

Robin Lagroix
R.R. No.3
Ponoka

Lethbridge Region

Lori Holthe
Box 253
Turin

Monica Lowe
Box 518
Nanton

November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NUTRITIVE VALUE OF FRESH VERSUS PROCESSED VEGETABLES

Are fresh vegetables more nutritious than processed vegetables or vice versa? Assuming optimal conditions, the nutritional content of fresh vegetables are generally the highest followed by frozen and canned vegetables in that order.

Aileen Whitmore, food and nutrition specialist at Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory, says that locally grown vegetables that are harvested and immediately stored for a short time under optimum conditions have a superior nutrient content, flavor and texture to those which have been frozen or canned. However, the nutrient value of vegetables that are stored for sometime in a refrigerator will probably be lower than their processed counterparts. Similarly, the nutrient valued of vegetables harvested in California or Mexico and shipped to our supermarkets will probably be lower that of frozen or canned vegetables.

Ms. Whitmore reports that canned vegetables are ranked lower than frozen vegetables because of the leaching of the B vitamins that takes place during processing. However, under ideal conditions the difference is minimal, she says.

She also points out that any method of food processing that involves the use of heat is likely to reduce the ascorbic acid or vitamin C content of a product. However, these losses will be much lower if the processing is done in the absence of air.

The blanching of vegetables prior to freezing is necessary to inactivate certain enzymes that would otherwise act as a catalyst in the destruction of the ascorbic acid. The vitamic C content of home-frozen vegetables is likely to be lower than that of commercially-frozen vegetables that were picked at the peak of their maturity and processed immediately. In fact the vitamin C content of commercially-frozen vegetables may be higher than the vitamin C content of fresh vegetables if the latter are harvested sometime before they are eaten and if they are stored under poor conditions.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF FIELD CROPS ENTOMOLOGIST

Dr. Bart Bolwyn, head of plant sciences at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, has announced the appointment of Dr. Helen Liu to the position of field crops entomologist.

Dr. Liu will be responsible for applied laboratory and field research in relation to the control, biology and economic impact of insect and related pests on field crops in Alberta. She will also be involved in extension activities in field crop insect pest management.

Dr. Liu received her B.Sc. (Hons) in zoology from the University of Nottingham, England, and her M.Sc. (1973) and her Ph.D. (1978) from the University of Guelph, Ontario. She has been supervising a pest management program in vegetable crops in southern Ontario for the last three years.

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Alberi
AGRICULTI

November 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS-IN-TRAINING APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's associate director of extension, W.O. Klatt, has announced six district agriculturists-in-training appointments.

Rudy Warawa has been appointed to the Athabasca office. He comes from Mundare and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1978. Since graduating, he has been employed as the agricultural fieldman for the County of Minburn, which has its headquarters at Vegreville.

Brian Kremenuik has been appointed to the Bonnyville office. He comes from the Evansburg area and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1978. Following graduation, he was employed by Alberta Agriculture's extension division as a summer assistant district agriculturist at Coronation. From December 1978 until his present appointment, he worked for Amoco Canada Petroleum Co.,Ltd. at Anzac.

James Hanson has been appointed to the Hanna office. He comes from Taber and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) with a major in animal science from the Utah State University, U.S.A., in 1979. He joined Olds College after graduating and has worked with the college's sheep operation until his present appointment.

Ron Koots has been appointed to the Lethbridge office. He is from Eckville and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) with a major in animal science from the University of Alberta in 1976. He obtained a B.Sc. (agriculture) with a major in agricultural engineering from the same university in 1979. Between university seminars he operated a small mixed farm in central Alberta.

Brian Tucker has been appointed to the Ponoka office. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1976 and then joined Alberta Housing and

- (cont'd) -

District Agriculturists-In-Training Appointed (cont'd)

and Public Works as a senior housing assistant. In 1978 he accepted a position as assistant director of research with the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation where he remained until his present appointement.

Beverley Knull has been appointed to the Red Deer office. She comes from Millet and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) last spring. She has been employed for the past four summers by the Imperial Bank of Commerce at its various branches in the Edmonton area.

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AGRI-NEWS

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CANADIANA
JAN 14 1981

December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD AND TECHNOLOGY

by Keith Price
Weed Control Branch, Alberta Agriculture

"Ten Thousand Dead!" An incredible headline? No. Ten thousand people die every day of the year and we rarely hear about it. The killer is starvation!

When was the last time you had reason to wonder where your food was coming from? Millions of people in the world go to bed every night not knowing where tomorrow's first, and often only, meal will come from. In Canada we can, and do, take food for granted.

Everyone knows that farmers live in the country, raise crops and livestock and are subject to problems brought about by the weather, weeds, insects, etc. We also know that if a farmer is seriously plagued with these problems, he will have a bad year, his yields will be down and his income could be drastically reduced, and that if a large enough number of farmers are affected, the whole economy will suffer. We will be paying more for bread, potatoes or beef in the supermarket. In spite of this, our food supply is so varied and so reliable that we never have to ask the question "Will we have enough to eat?"

This situation of plenty is unique in man's history and it is unique in the world, apart from the industrialized Western nations. It has been brought about by the efforts of man through technology.

Our abundant supply of food has resulted from the growing of selected crops and the breeding of animals that have the ability to produce. Farmers are now looking at such things as turning some soil profiles upside down to improve their basic structure. Exotic plants from abroad are being evaluated for their productive potential and we may be on the verge of creating new crops via genetic engineering. Weather modification is in its infancy. All exciting beginnings, and all engineered by man through technology.

- (cont'd) -

Food And Technology (cont'd)

In countries that are not as technically advanced as ours, a large proportion of the population must work in the fields — planting, weeding, picking off insects, cutting and threshing — all mindless forms of manual labor. This hand labor has been reduced to a very low level in North America by complex and expensive machines and sophisticated chemicals. As a result, only about 5 per cent of Canadians are now engaged in food production, and this percentage is steadily decreasing as productivity per worker increases and the proportion of our income spent on food decreases.

At the present time Canadians spend only 13 per cent of their take home pay on food, which is the lowest it has ever been. Hence, most of us have the opportunity to pursue a rewarding career of our own choosing, and, at the same time, enjoy some leisure. We are able to go camping for the weekend, and enjoy the wilderness, only because of the increasing productivity of our agricultural land.

Unfortunately, some of our best educated people, freed by technology from the worry about survival, use their leisure time to criticize the flaws in the technology that has given them this freedom. Water diversions, dams, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and industrial wastes are a few of the modern technologies that are being challenged and sometimes obstructed by well-meaning and often knowledgeable individuals and groups. We must maintain a balance — protecting our health and comforts also means increasing our food production to keep pace with our increasing population.

Banning or obstructing the use of present technology without the development of a better technology can only be disastrous. We still lose about 30 per cent of our potential food production to insects, diseases and weeds, despite our current high level of technology. And yet there are many who are seeking to ban chemical pesticides, and these groups have been relatively successful.

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Food And Technology (cont'd)

The real tragedy of the attacks on the use of technology is that many well-meaning people, who are willing to donate to charities, fail to realize that starving people cannot eat money! Money can buy food, but first the food must be produced, and because starving people are poor it must be produced cheaply and in large enough quantities.

The problem is that agriculture, a major user of technology, can be stifled. With only 5 per cent of our population producing all our food, the political voice of our farmers is dwindling.

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COURSE FOR COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPERS

A course for commercial beekeepers is scheduled for February 16 -20, 1981, at Olds College. It will cover numerous aspects of bee management, and will be geared to the commercial beekeeper. The last course of this type was held at the University of Alberta in 1964. It is also open to extension personnel who desire more information to help them advise beekeepers.

For further information contact either Don MacDonald, Supervisor, Apiculture, Box 415, Falher, Alberta, TOM 1MO or Trevor Bryant, Extension Apiarist (New Zealand), Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEEDS '81

The deadline for registering for Weeds '81 is January 15, 1981. What is Weeds '81? It is a comprehensive homestudy course, presented by Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with the University of Alberta, to provide in-depth technical information on all aspects of weed control to farmers, district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen, elevator agents, custom pesticide applicators, chemical company representatives and high school agricultural classes.

To adopt weed control technology successfully, the farmer of tomorrow will have to substitute knowledge for manual work, and this knowledge cannot be acquired through evening meetings or through reading magazines articles. The basic philosophy of Weeds '81 is to help those involved in weed control to understand the reasons for the procedures that are recommended so that they can substitute and adapt the theoretical principles to their individual situations. In other words, to enable them to use their intelligence to cope with situations for which there are no specific recommendations.

The material contained in the course's easy-to-read and easy-to-study format covers a wide range of topics and is applicable to all regions of the province. It comes in a package which is mailed out as a unit so that students can study at their own pace. The package contains the following:

- Eight written lessons of technical material.
- A set of colored weed pictures.
- A weed seedling identification booklet.
- A chemical selection guide.

Weekly letters with updated material on weed control will be mailed to all registrants over an eight-week period, and an optional examination, open book style, will be availa-

- (cont'd) -

Weeds '81 (cont'd)

ble upon request. A certificate will be awarded to successful candidates and a computer printout of the herbicides that can be used will be mailed out to students who submit a list of the weeds on their farms.

The cost of the Weeds '81 homestudy course is only $20! Registration forms can be obtained from district extension offices, agricultural fieldmen, regional plant industry supervisors and Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch.

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December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF SUGARBEET NEMATODE POSSIBLE

Biological control of the sugarbeet nematode *(Heterodera schachtii)* a very destructive pest of sugarbeets in many parts of the world, including Alberta, may be in the offing, according to a recent report from scientists at the University of California.

Two soil-born fungi have been found to parasitize the eggs of the sugar-beet cyst nematode in the field and in greenhouse trials. The fungi were observed in 90 per cent of the soil samples obtained from fields in five beet-growing areas in California.

They were also found to attack the eggs of five other nematode species in laboratory tests. In fact, they were even found to attack eggs while they were inside the female nematode.

Neither of the fungi significantly damaged the roots of sugarbeets or a number of other crops that were being grown in rotation with them.

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hone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLLECTING POLLEN AND ROYAL JELLY FROM HONEYBEES

Most beekeepers think of honeybees as producers of honey, which, of course, they are, but they also produce other products for which there is an ever increasing demand.

One of these is pollen. The demand for pollen comes from the health food industry and from beekeepers in areas of Alberta where seasonal shortages are experienced on a regular basis. In areas where there is an abundance of pollen, it is possible to trap it in the spring and summer for these markets, and for a beekeeper's own use. This is done with a little box which contains a grid through which the bees must walk when entering the hive. As they pass through the grid, the pollen pellets are scraped off their legs and fall into a collection area.

At the present time there is only one beekeeper in Western Canada who traps pollen on a commercial basis. Anyone planning to do so must first make sure that his hives are free of American foulbrood and European foulbrood. The pollen sells for between $4 and $5 per pound in bulk, and it is possible to get as much as 10 pounds per hive in one season.

Royal jelly is another product for which there is a high demand in both Taiwan and North America. Royal jelly is the food which the bees give to the developing larvae, particularly those being reared as queens. It is used in southeast Asia for medicinal purposes, not as an aphrodisiac (a drug which produces sexual desire) as is erroneously believed by some. In North America royal jelly is used in the cure of such things as ulcers, rheumatism, cancer, etc. and by the cosmetic industry to rejuvenate the skin.

Royal jelly can be collected in the spring, summer and fall by artificially creating swarming conditions and then placing queen cell cups in the hive which contain 18-hour old larvae. The cups are removed from the hive on the third day and the larvae are taken out of

- (cont'd) -

Collecting Pollen And Royal Jelly From Honeybees (cont'd)

them. The royal jelly on which the larvae were being fed is then sucked out and the cups regrafted with larvae and placed back in the hive. Royal jelly sells for approximately $32 per ounce.

Further information on trapping pollen and collecting royal jelly can be obtained from Donald MacDonald, Supervisor of Apiculture, Box 415, Falher, Alberta, TOH 1MO.

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December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YEAR MARKET GARDEN COURSES FOR EDMONTON AND CALGARY

Alberta Agriculture's horticulture branch is sponsoring a three-day short course for market gardeners in Edmonton at Northlands (Northlands Gardens) from January 20-22, 1981, and in Calgary at the Port-O-Call Inn from January 27-29, 1981.

The course is designed for people who grow vegetable or fruit crops on a commercial basis and for those who are seriously considering going into the market gardening business. It is not intended for home gardeners.

The first day of the course will feature the following topics: Introduction to Market Gardening; Pointers on Selling, Planning and Management; Services Available to Producers; Costs of Production and Potential Returns. There will also be a presentation on marketing by established market gardeners.

The second day will cover accounting and taxation; weed control and market garden equipment availability as well as presentations from established market gardeners on production.

The third day will feature: Early Crop Production (plastic mulches, tunnels, transplants, transplanting etc.); Crop Storage and Strawberry and Raspberry Production.

The registration fee for the course, which will run from 1.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. each day, is $10 for an individual day or $20 for the full three days.

The annual meeting of the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board is scheduled to be held at the same time as the Calgary short course and at the same location. The sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. All market gardeners, including those participating in the short course, are urged to attend.

- (cont'd) -

New Year Market Garden Courses For Edmonton And Calgary (cont'd)

Further information and application forms for the Edmonton and Calgary short course and information on the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board's annual meeting can be obtained from Ralph Trimmer, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-5337) or from Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, TOJ OJO (Telephone: 362-3391).

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December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANDIED FRUIT PEEL

Candied fruit peel is a popular ingredient in Christmas baking. Why not make your own and save some money! Betty Grudnizki, district home economist at Camrose, shares her mother's method of making candied fruit peel.

3 large oranges
3 large lemons
1 grapefruit
3 cups sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. corn syrup
1 envelope gelatin

Quarter the fruit and remove the peel in sections. Scrape and trim most of the white membrane from the peel. Cut into 1/4" wide strips and place in heavy, large saucepan. Bring to boil. Simmer 15 minutes. Drain and repeat twice. Drain water from peel. Add two cups sugar, salt, syrup and one cup water. Cook over low heat, stirring often.

Soften gelatin in 1/2 cup water. Stir into hot peel mixture until dissolved. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Remove strips and roll in remaining sugar. Place on wax paper and allow to dry overnight. Store in tightly covered container.

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Communications Division

December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENIOR BUSINESS ANALYST APPOINTED TO ADC

Lorne C. Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the hiring of David Wiebe as senior business analyst. He will be responsible for the ongoing monitoring and analysis of the larger agribusiness accounts; for evaluating new proposals and for research and analysis according to the corporation's needs. He has his B.A. from the University of Winnipeg, and M.B.A. from the University of Manitoba.

After several years as a business instructor, Mr. Wiebe spent seven years as a credit officer with the Federal Business Development Bank and has recently been a business consultant in Calgary. He will be located in the corporation's head office in Camrose.

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December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC APPOINTS LOANS OFFICERS

Lorne C. Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced the hiring of the following loans officers for various locations throughout the province. The new positions have been created to help the corporation meet the vastly increased demand for its services, which resulted from the revision to the Beginning Farmer Loan Program last April.

Thelma Bardawill has been appointed to the Barrhead office. She has a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Guelph and spent a year as a visiting student at the University of Alberta. She was raised on a farm in Ontario and has been employed for the past two months at the corporation's Olds office.

Elizabeth Cairns has been appointed to the Grande Prairie office. She recently completed her master's degree at the University of Manitoba where she majored in horticulture. Her previous work experience includes appointments with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, the City of Winnipeg and a chartered bank.

John Krall has been appointed to the Peace River office. He will be sharing the duties of the Falher office with Everett Olsen. Having farmed in Nampa for many years where he was active in community affairs, Mr. Krall is no stranger to the area. He is a University of Alberta commerce graduate.

Donald Low has been appointed to the Red Deer office. He has a B.Sc (agriculture) from the University of Alberta and an M.Sc. (agricultural economics) from the University of Guelph. He brings considerable experience to his new job in farm management, both from Alberta and Ontario.

- (cont'd) -

ADC Appoints Loans Officers (cont'd)

James Majeski has been appointed to the Wainwright office. He recently graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta where he majored in engineering agrology. He was raised on a farm near Camrose.

William Tchir has been appointed to the Athabasca office. He has considerable lending experience, having been employed for many years with a chartered bank in various locations of the province. He is a native of Alberta, and his family will be moving from St. Albert to Athabasca in the new year.

Lawrence Valentine has been appointed to the Fairview office. He has had many years of experience with chartered banks, and his most recent assignment was with a large oilseed processing plant in the Peace River region. He was raised on a farm in the Westlock area.

Gerry Trojan, who has been with the corporation as a temporary loans officer, has now joined the permanent staff. He graduated with a B.Comm. from the University of Alberta in 1971. His varied career since that time has included experience in teaching, construction and real estate sales. He has also been employed by the Alberta Housing Corporation and held a previous position with the Agricultural Development Corporation.

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December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIAGNOSTIC PATHOLOGISTS APPOINTED

Dr. W.T. Nagge, head of Alberta Agriculture's regional laboratories branch, has announced the appointments of Drs. Jane Pritchard and Don Caldwell.

Dr. Pritchard is performing duties in diagnostic pathology at the Peace River regional veterinary diagnostic laboratory at Fairview. She was raised in British Columbia and Ontario and received an honours B.A. from the University of Toronto. She entered the Ontario Veterinary College and received her D.V.M. in 1977. Following graduation she was engaged in private veterinary practice in Vancouver and Prince George.

Dr. Caldwell is performing duties in diagnostic pathology at the regional veterinary diagnostic laboratory at Airdrie. He was raised in Ontario and attended the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, graduating with a D.V.M. in 1977. Following graduation he was engaged in private practice in Ontario and Australia. He returned to the Ontario Veterinary College for post-graduate studies in pathology and obtained his diploma in pathology in 1980.

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December 1, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Marian Baade to the position of home economist at Rimbey.

She will be offering courses on home management, family living, housing, clothing and textiles and foods and nutrition. She will also be writing a column for the local paper and participating in radio and TV programs.

Ms. Baade comes from a grain farm in Saskatchewan and is a 1980 graduate of the University of Saskatchewan where she obtained a B.Sc. (H.E.) She was president of the Home Economics Student Society in her final year. She worked in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, in the summer of 1979 promoting better nutrition and food buying habits and giving information on stretching the food dollar on the program "Food Talk". Since last June she has been training as a district home economist in Ponoka.

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AGRI-NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL ALBERTA

Five Alberta firms will receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance to undertake new investments in rural Alberta communities.

Horst Engel of Didsbury will receive $60,686 to rebuild his 20-year old specialty cheese plant to meet an increased demand for his products. The estimated cost of the new plant is $233,409. Six new jobs are expected to be created.

Cascade Fertilizers Ltd. will receive $94,691 to build a new polyphosphate fertilizer plant at Standard. It is being built in response to the increasing demand for liquid polyphosphate fertilizer in Alberta. The output from the new plant will reduce its cost to Western Canadian farmers and improve its availability. The estimated cost of the new facility is $557,008 and it is expected to create 10 new jobs.

The Wetaskiwin Co-operative Association Ltd. will receive $4,320 to modify its feed mill so that it can produce steam-rolled feed. The modification, which is expected to cost $24,000, will enable the plant to better serve the dairy industry in the area.

St. Paul Beverages Ltd., the franchise bottler and distributor for Coca-Cola and Schweppes in the St. Paul area, will receive $10,171 to expand its bottling plant. The estimated cost of the expansion is $50,857, and two new jobs are expected to be created during the next two or three years.

United Feeds, a division of United Grain Growers Ltd, will receive $8,668 to modernize its pet food manufacturing plant in Innisfail. The modernization is expected to cost $50,986.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Alberta Agriculture.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOTSPOTS IN GRAIN

by Jerome Manchur
District Agriculturist at Ryley

One of the worst feelings in the world is to go out one morning to load your truck with grain and to discover the bin has heated. Now is the time to be on the watch for hotspots and to take steps to prevent spoilage.

Hotspots can be caused by any number of things. The most common are insects and molds. However, these only thrive if the grain is damp or tough and the temperature is high enough. Grain must be at 10 ° C or lower to kill insects. Any tough grain with a temperature higher than this is susceptible to heating. Most insects common to this province will start breeding and growing at a temperature of about 21° C. Once they start to breed, more heat is produced, which, when combined with moisture from the insects, can create a crust on the grain. In severe heating, the grain will sprout.

A metal pipe inserted in the grain at as many locations as possible for about 10 minutes is one of the best ways of detecting hotspots. Other signs of heating are crusting, steam rising from the bin and sometimes a tell-tale smell. At this point the owner has already lost some profits.

Some ways to prevent hotspots are:

- Use a grain spreader on the auger when augering grain into the bin. This will spread the weed seeds and other foreign material more evenly throughout the bin.
- Try to keep the grain moisture level at 13 per cent or lower and the grain temperature at 4 ° C or lower.
- Sweep out all bins before filling them with new grain.
- Make sure bins are waterproof.

- (cont'd) -

Hotspots In Grain (cont'd)

- Clean up all spilled grain.
- Check your grain often. If you leave on a winter vacation, ask a neighbor to check it for you.

If you do discover a hotspot, auger the grain around as soon as possible, preferably on a cold day. If necessary, dry the grain down to an acceptable level. When hotspots are detected early, moving the grain around will usually cool it off. The few minutes spent checking grain for hotspots will certainly pay big dividends. There is nothing more frustrating than loosing your grain to heating, when, with a little bit of extra time, it could have been prevented.

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CORRECTION

In the article entitled "District Agriculturists-in-Training" (November 24 issue of Agri-News), the sixth paragraph should read Stuart Tucker; NOT Brian Tucker.

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December 8, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED MARKETING SEMINARS AND COMMODITY FUTURES MARKET WORKSHOPS

Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Rapeseed Growers' Association will be sponsoring a series of rapeseed marketing seminars and commodity futures market workshops in various locations throughout the province during February and early March, 1981.

The seminars are designed for rapeseed growers who are interested in learning about special pricing mechanisms, price determination principles and marketing alternatives, and who are interested in outlook information.

The workshops are designed for people who understand rapeseed marketing fairly well and who would like to use the commodity futures market. Registration will be limited to enable participants to work through the mechanics involved in placing a hedge and assessing the financial consequences under various market situations.

Following is a list of the places and dates on which the seminars and workshops will be held.

Morinville — seminar — February 2

Grande Prairie — seminar — February 9

Grimshaw — seminar — February 10

Grimshaw — workshop — February 11

Grande Prairie — workshop — February 12

Morinville — workshop — February 16

Vermilion — seminar — February 19

Olds — seminar — February 23

Olds — workshop — February 24

- (cont'd) -

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Rapeseed Marketing Seminars And Commodity Futures Market Workshops (cont'd)

Lethbridge — seminar — February 25

Lethbridge — workshop — February 26

Vermilion — workshop — March 2

You can obtain more detailed information on both the seminars and the workshops from the director of the Alberta Rapeseed Growers' Association and from Alberta Agriculture's regional economists and district agriculturists.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORDER BREEDER SEED NOW

Applications for obtaining breeder seed through the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) Select Plot Program must be received by Alberta Agriculture's Field Crops Branch in Lacombe before December 31, 1980.

Seed growers wishing to participate in the Select Plot Growing Program must have successfully produced the same pedigreed crop for the last three years or have successfully produced it for three out of the last five years. They will then be eligible to apply for a variety of breeder seed of the kind of crop they have had experience in growing.

The maximum plot size allowed for a beginner (probationary) select seed grower is one-half a hectare (about one acre) and the minimum is one-quarter of a hectare (about half an acre).

For an established select seed grower, the maximum plot size is one hectare (about 2 acres). An established select seed grower who wants to change from one variety to another in the same type of crop can request permission from CSGA in Ottawa to grow a select plot of both varieties for one season. However, the combined area of the two plots may not exceed one hectare.

Growers wishing to obtain breeder seed of a SeCan variety must apply directly to the SeCan Association, 1568 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario.

Application forms for ordering breeder seed and additional information on the Select Plot Growing Program can be obtained from Bill Witbeck, Secretary, Alberta Stock Seed Distribution Committee, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta TOC 1S0. (Telephone 782-4641).

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December 8, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY CONSERVATION IN GREENHOUSES

Getting a little worried about the cost of heating your greenhouse? Well you haven't seen anything yet! Before you glance down at the table below and phone the real estate agent, consider the following.

Firstly, natural gas is getting expensive in Alberta, but you still heat your greenhouses cheaper than any other group of greenhouse growers in North American or Western Europe! Manitoba growers are paying $30,000 to $50,000 per acre per year!

Secondly, there are some quite inexpensive things you can be doing now to save energy dollars.

Following is a summary of some energy conserving techniques and potential savings:

	Potential Savings
Structural and covering maintenance	3 - 10%
Maintenance of heating and ventilating systems	10 - 20%
Thermal Curtains	25 - 30%
Sidewall and northwall insulation	10 - 20%
Foundation insulation	5%
Insulate and "tighten up" vent shrouds and louvers	5%

- (cont'd) -

Energy Conservation In Greenhouses (cont'd)

Remember any technique should be cost analyzed before you purchase and any cost benefit calculations should take into consideration the future cost of gas. The table below shows the estimated cost of natural gas in Alberta for the next 10 years and the estimated cost of heating three basic types of greenhouses.*

	Year										
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Cost of Natural Gas ($/1000 cu. ft.)	1.55	2.27	2.84	3.47	4.14	4.87	5.67	6.52	7.44	8.44	9.52
Type of Greenhouse	Cost of heating $/ft^2										
Glass/Fiberglass	0.43	0.63	0.79	0.97	1.15	1.35	1.58	1.81	2.07	2.35	2.65
Double Polyethylene	0.31	0.46	0.58	0.71	0.84	0.99	1.16	1.32	1.52	1.72	1.94
Glass/Fiberglass with thermal curtain	0.32	0.47	0.59	0.73	0.86	1.01	1.19	1.36	1.55	1.76	1.99

"Conserving Energy in Ohio Greenhouses" outlines specific energy conservation techniques and can be obtained, free of charge, from Dr. Mirza Mohyuddin, Greenhouse Crops Specialist, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, TOJ OJO.

*Calculations based on approximately one acre structure. Costs per square foot increase if unit size decreases. Costs based on well maintained houses.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER FEED FOR DAIRY GOATS

If you want to maintain the milk production or reproductive efficiency of your dairy goats during the winter, you must increase their feed.

According to an Agriculture Canada dairy nutritionist, the amount of feed required to maintain a goat during the winter may increase by 10 to 20 per cent, depending upon the temperature, and additional feed will be required for growth, reproduction and milk. In the case of milk production, the nutritional needs of the goat will vary according to the amount of milk she is producing and its fat content. For example, a Nubian dairy goat will require more feed than a Saanen to produce the same amount of milk because the former produces milk with a higher fat content.

In actuality, the nutritional needs of a dairy goat are very similar to those of a high-producing dairy cow except that a dairy cow will normally eat about 3 per cent of her body weight a day, while a goat can eat from 4 to 7 per cent of its bodyweight. Because feed specifically formulated for dairy goats is hard to find, most goat breeders in Canada are using rations that have been prepared for dairy cows.

The Agriculture Canada dairy nutritionist says that a milking doe requires a ration of hay and grain that contains a minimum of 11 per cent protein, 60 to 65 per cent total digestible nutrients (TDN), 0.5 per cent calcium and 0.3 per cent phosphorous. She should also receive 4500 international units (IU) of vitamin A and 400 IU of vitamin D a day. A good 18 per cent dairy ration is the best supplement to use if you are feeding a poor quality grass hay. Such a supplement should contain 18 per cent protein, 0.8 per cent calcium, 0.7 per cent phosphorous, one per cent salt and most of the required A and D vitamins. Its TDN should be at least 70 per cent.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRIVING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Are you planning to use your car to go to stay with relatives or friends this holiday season? If so, are you properly prepared for such a trip? Taking precautions against bad weather is especially important if you will be travelling with young children.

"If you are a wise motorist" says Alberta Agriculture's safety co-ordinator, Grant Churchill, "you will take extra clothing, a shovel, a bag of sand, matches, candles, a metal container (which can be used to pack everything in), something to drink and a supply of high calorie, non-perishable food in case of an emergency. You will also make sure your car is in good running order before you start out on your journey, and, if the weather is cold, you will make sure that your gas tank is kept half full." Keeping it half full will prevent condensation in the fuel line.

If you are going a long distance or if the weather looks threatening when you are about to leave, telephone to your relatives or friends and give them the route you propose to take and your approximate time of arrival.

In the event that you have to stop on the highway, be sure to open your downwind window to let sufficient air into the car to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, and run your motor and heater sparingly. If you get stuck in a snowdrift, make sure that the exhaust pipe is clear of snow so that the carbon monoxide is not driven up into the car. Remember, that freezing wet snow and wind-driven snow can make a car airtight.

If you should get stuck, do not over-exert yourself trying to get out. Attempting to push a car or to shovel heavy snowdrifts during a strong wind, blinding snow or a bitterly cold temperature can lead to a heart attack. Remember too, that you are safer in your car in bad weather than you are leaving it. Do not attempt to walk to find help because disorientation can quickly occur in blowing and drifting snow. The best thing to do is to stay in your

- (cont'd) -

Driving During The Holiday Season (cont'd)

car and try to attract the attention of other motorists. Turn on the dome light and your emergency flashers (switch is on the right side of the steering column). If another motorist does not stop to help you, you can be sure that the highway maintenance crew will find you.

If you are cold, put a lighted candle in the can and place it on the floor of the car. You can also use a candle to melt snow if you run out of something to drink. Do not eat snow because you will lower your body temperature.

Finally, take turns if you want to sleep. There should always be somebody on the alert.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDES AND FOOD PRODUCTION

Weed Control Branch
Alberta Agriculture

Most Canadians take their plentiful supply and variety of food for granted, but this relative abundance of high quality food depends to a great extent upon the use of pesticides.

The group of chemicals we call pesticides is made up of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and other compounds. It is the use and effectiveness of these chemicals that have helped to free the manpower that is needed to provide other goods and services and that have contributed to our high standard of living. Pesticides will continue to be a major factor in enabling farmers to market high quality products at reasonable prices.

If we completely eliminated the use of pesticides, the proverbial apple-a-day would cost many times more than it does now and its quality would be considerably lower. This situation holds true for just about all the food we buy. If we were willing to accept these higher food prices, it would then be necessary to establish an allowable limit of impurity. This could mean such things as five maggots per can of cherries, which would be about one maggot per slice of cherry pie. Not very appetizing is it!

To maintain the abundance and quality of food that we have become accustomed to without the use of pesticides would require a much larger farm labor force, a larger farm acreage and an enormous amount of capital. None of these is readily available.

Contrary to what some people believe, pesticides are not used on a blanket scale. Today's progressive farmers consult with agricultural extension workers, research workers and other authorities to determine the economic threshold of weed, insect and disease infestation. The economic threshold defines the damage potential of economic importance. Below this

- (cont'd) -

Pesticides And Food Production (cont'd)

threshold, no chemical is applied. Above it, chemicals may be applied to prevent losses in both yield and quality. However, no arbitrary decisions are made in either case. They are made on the basis of minimal risk.

The use of pesticides in the past has been responsible for greatly improved agricultural production and efficiency. The outlook for greater efficiency in the future looks promising, providing that farmers, consumers and governments recognize the dependence of agriculture, and our society as a whole, upon the proper and knowledgeable use of pesticides.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAFFEINE – A CAUSE FOR CONCERN:

Do you have any idea how much caffeine you consume a day? It might be a good idea to find out because there appears to be a considerable variation in the response of individuals to this substance.

According to Catherine Sinnott, Alberta Agriculture's regional food and nutrition specialist for northern Alberta, caffeine is present in such beverages as coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate as well in the cola drinks (Coca Cola, Dr. Pepper, Mountain Dew and Tab). She says it acts as a stimulant to the central nervous system and that it takes 50 to 200 mg of caffeine to increase alertness and to decrease drowsiness and fatigue. In some people, however, 200 to 500 mg can cause headaches, irritability, nervousness and tremors.

The following table lists the caffeine content of various beverages.

Beverage	Caffeine Content *Milligrams per 150 millilitres (5 ounces)*
Coffee, Instant	60-70
Freeze-dried	62-70
Percolated	97-125
Dripolated	137-153
Tea, Bagged, Black, 5 minute brew	39-50
Bagged, Black, 1 minute brew	21-33
Tea, Loose, Green, 5 minute brew	35
Loose, Black, 5 minute brew	40
Cocoa	10-17
Cola Drinks	32-65

Ms. Sinnot believes that anyone who drinks a large quantity of percolated or dripolated coffee , and suspects that the caffeine is having a negative effect on his or her sleeping habits or that it is contributing to gastrointestinal disorders, nervousness or irritability, would be wise to switch to the decaffeinated, instant or freeze-dried types of coffee or to drink tea.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTMENT

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Lorraine Fagnou to the position of home economist at Sangudo, effective December 15.

Ms. Fagnou comes from a mixed farm in Saskatchewan and obtained her B.Sc. (H.E.) this year from the University of Saskatchewan. Her past work experience includes counsellor at the Easter Seal Camp for the Saskatchewan Council for Crippled Children and Adults and researcher into ethnic and cultural costumes for the University of Saskatchewan's College of Home Economics. She has spent the last six months taking her district home economist training at Warner.

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December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA 1981 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK FOR GRAINS AND OILSEEDS

World wheat production in 1980-81 is currently estimated at 428 million tonnes, up 8 million tonnes from 1979-80, but still 4 per cent below the record 1978-79 crop. In addition to the United States, the European Economic Community harvested a record wheat crop in 1980 and other western European countries, Eastern Europe and Canada had production levels above those recorded in 1979. However, Australia, India and China recorded serious production declines, while the Soviet Union experienced its second consecutive year of poor crops.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates a 1980-81 world wheat usage in its Food and Agriculture Outlook of 435 million tonnes, which is slightly below the record level of 1979. According to Les Lyster, who attended the 1981 Food and Agriculture Outlook Conference, and who is a market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, the current forecast indicates that world wheat usage will exceed production for the second consecutive year. Hence, world wheat stocks are expected to drop to 72 million tonnes from 78 million tonnes.

Although the United States produced a record 1980 wheat crop, stocks are not expected to build up in that country because of the record exports that are being forecast. The USDA expects the winter wheat acreage to be up by 5 to 9 per cent compared with the large acreage that was planted in 1980. Given normal yields, the United States could set a new wheat production record in 1981.

Mr. Lyster reports that the USDA expects wheat prices during the 1980-81 crop year to average about 10 per cent higher than they were in the 1979-80 crop year.

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USDA 1981 Food And Agriculture Outlook For Grains And Oilseeds (cont'd)

World feed grain production for 1980-81 is estimated by the USDA to be 705 million tonnes, down by 22 million tonnes for the 1979-80 level. Since the use of feed grain is expected to increase this year, world stocks are forecast to decline for the second consecutive year and are expected to be around 54 million tonnes next summer. This figure represents a sharp decline from the 1979-80 level of 87 million tonnes.

Mr. Lyster says much of the decline in stocks will occur in the United States. U.S. corn stocks are expected to have declined by October 1, 1981, to about a third of their October 1, 1980 level, and the much tighter world and U.S. feed grain supply/demand balance is expected to result in continued strong feed grain prices. Bill Uhrig of Purdue University in the United States expects American cash corn prices to reach $4 U.S. per bushel before this spring.

The USDA predicts world oilseed production for the 1980-81 crop year to be approximately 10 per cent below the record level achieved in 1979-80. Mr. Lyster says this year's sharp decline in world oilseed output is mainly concentrated in North America, and that most of the decline is being accounted for by the much smaller U.S. soybean crop.

Although the large inventory of oilseeds carried over from 1979 has cushioned the production decline somewhat, the USDA expects American and world oilseed stocks to decrease during the 1980-81 crop year. It also expects that U.S. farm soybean prices will average $8.60 per bushel which would be about 35 per cent above the 1979-80 level.

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December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA 1981 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK FOR LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has forecast higher retail beef, pork and poultry prices for 1981 in its Food and Agricultural Outlook. Price increases of 12 to 16 per cent are forecast for beef, 25 to 30 per cent for pork and 14 to 18 per cent for poultry.

Bill Gray of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, who attended the USDA 1981 Food and Agriculture Outlook Conference, reports that total American meat production is expected to reach 52 billion pounds in 1981, representing a slight decrease from the record level of 53 billion pounds produced in 1980.

He also reports that the larger increase in pork prices compared with the red meats has been attributed to an anticipated sharp decline in pork supplies. The record high pork production recorded in 1980 resulted in lower prices to producers, which, when combined with higher feed costs, placed a severe financial strain on producers. According to Mr. Gray, the forecast decline in production is directly related to reduced profits in the pork industry.

U.S. beef supplies are expected to remain stable during the coming year with the forecast 12 to 16 per cent increase in retail prices being attributed to an increase in the demand for beef. This increased demand is expected to result from lower pork supplies, higher pork prices and an increase in the disposable income of consumers.

Mr. Gray says American poultry production is expected to increase again in 1981, but that this increase will be tempered by higher feed costs. The 14 to 18 per cent increase in U.S. retail prices is again being attributed to a reduction in pork supplies and an increase in the disposable income of consumers.

Because of the North American orientation of the Canadian livestock industry, Mr. Gray expects the American situation to be fully reflected in our market place.

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December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMALL PRE-WEANING GROUP SIZE INCREASES GILT FECUNDITY

by Leo B. Abenes
Swine Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Rearing gilts in small groups prior to weaning results in an increase of about one pig at first parity.

This is the conclusion of Dr. J.J. Ruteledge of the University of Wisconsin in a recent article appearing in the "Journal of Animal Science".

Over the period of study, gilts reared in groups of six averaged 11.3 pigs born compared with an average of 10.19 for gilts reared in an unchanged group size (average = 10.06 pigs per litter).

Why small groupings at an early age increase the size of a subsequent litter is not clear. However, Dr. Ruteledge hypothesized that the neonatal ovary may be involved.

The pig differs from most mammals in its pattern of egg formation and maturation (oogenesis). While transformation of a primitive germ cell to the immature egg occurs entirely during the fetal or early neonatal period in most mammals, oogenesis in the pig begins before day 40 of fetal life and lasts until at least day 35 after birth.

Degeneration is common during this period with only an estimated 50 percent of the germ cell population surviving transformation in the pig. Collectively, these surviving primitive egg cells form the pool from which mature egg cells will develop.

Dr. Ruteledge speculates that a small grouping prior to weaning might provide conditions that avoid degeneration and result in a larger pool of primitive egg cells. If the pool were larger, increased ovulation rate and litter size could be predicted not only for first but also for subsequent parities. Trials are still underway to test these hypotheses.

- (cont'd) -

Small Pre-Weaning Group Size Increases Gilt Fecundity (cont'd)

Findings to date pose particular problems for hog producers who select replacement females from large litters. Without some change in their current management practices, their selection efforts for litter size will be ineffective because these replacement females coming from large litters will then farrow smaller litters.

Although selected for large litter size, the gilts are unable to express their genetic superiority for this trait because of the neonatal environment in which they were raised.

The advice, therefore, is to radically change the present management practice by reducing the size of the litter in which potential female replacements are raised. Breeders should continue to select for litter size, but immediately after birth, piglets from the litter (preferably boars) should be cross-fostered to other sows.

December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SAFETY OF FOOD ADDITIVES

Are Food Additives Safe? In Canada food additives can only be added to designated foods at designated maximum amounts and for designated purposes.

A manufacturer, for example, has to provide the Health Protection Branch of Health and Welfare Canada with extensive information if he wants to use a new food additive or if he wants to use an existing food additive in a new way. The information must tell what the additive does; how it is made; what its chemical and physical properties are; how much should be used; how to analyze for it; the data which establish that it produces the desired physical or other technical effects; and the results of tests carried out to establish the additive's safety under the conditions of use recommended.

It is obvious that people are concerned about what is added to food and about the overall safety of the food supply. They are beginning to long for the past when their ancestors grew their own food, which gave them control over it. However, under our present food production system, we can expect to live longer and healthier lives than was the case 40 years ago. During the past 40 years our dietary habits have changed considerably and the quality of our food has increased. We can now obtain a tremendous variety of food throughout the year from many parts of the world. However, one of the prices we must pay for this quality and variety is the use of preservatives. The change in our life style has also resulted in the demand for convenience foods, many of which contain chemical additives.

A large proportion of the public does not understand the real limitations of the science base on which decisions are made on the safety of food chemicals. For example, long-term animal tests take three generations of animals or an animal's whole life, and the predictability of these tests when transferred to human beings remains problematical. Animal studies

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The Safety Of Food Additives (cont'd)

serve only as a qualitative surrogate for human testing and cannot provide reliable information on how much of a chemical will be hazardous to human beings.

A chemical that causes cancer in animals has the capacity to cause cancer in people, but it is not known at what level that chemical will become a carcinogen to human beings. The rationale of high level testing, although not understood by the public, is clear and obvious. It is a well established test used in every reputable laboratory in the world, but it is the size of the dose that is crucial. Since the public does not think in these terms, people believe that safety is absolute rather than relative. They want a zero risk food supply, which is not achievable. Safety is always a relative term.

One of the reasons people are turning to the so-called natural foods is that they want to control their lives, and, if they control the food they eat, they are at least controlling something. Another reason is that they are confused by the sensationalism of news reports. In the final analysis, however, we must evaluate the benefits over the risks. Complex trade-offs have to be made between the probable risks to health from food chemicals, from food production shortages and from food-borne diseases. In light of this premise, regulatory decisions on food additives have to be made on the basis of the perceived risk and after the careful evaluation of a number of other factors, many of which cannot be dealt with in a strictly quantitative fashion.

When making such a decision we must consider, risk, consumer expectation, the ability of the consumer to make informed choices, the cost to the industry which will be ultimately passed on to the consumer, the ability to control exposure of the population, the impact on international trade, availability of less hazardous substances, ability of regulatory agencies to enforce the regulations and the impact on future regulatory policies.

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The Safety Of Food Additives (cont'd)

The above criteria cannot be ranked in order of importance. Decisions must be taken on a case by case basis using them as guidelines.

In view of the above:

- Do we need to be vigilant with respect to food additives? Yes.
- Are we in mortal danger from food chemicals? No.
- Are the chemicals permitted in foods in Canada safe? Within the limits of the science base in which we operate, the answer is yes.
- How serious are food additive problems vis-a-vis food safety. They are less serious from a health point of view than acute microbiological problems and chronic nutritional problems, both of which are the main food-related health concerns in our society.

– A summary by David Schroder, Alberta Agriculture, of a talk given to the Alberta Section of the Canadian Institute of Food Science Technology by Dr. A.B. Morrison, assistant deputy minister of the Health Protection Branch of Health and Welfare Canada.

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December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSES

Are you planning to build a new house or to renovate an older house? Would you like to build an energy-efficient house?

Standard house plans can usually be adapted for energy conservation by doing such things as moving the main living areas to the south side of the house and by putting the kitchen and storage areas on the north side. Most of the larger magazine stores have booklets which contain house plans that can serve as a starting point. Home planning services will often adapt these plans to your needs.

Following is a short list of publications that should help you with your project:

. "Energy Efficient Housing — A Prairie Approach" has a section on refitting an older house, and it can be obtained, free of charge, in Alberta from the Energy Conservation Branch, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, 9915 - 108 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C9 or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

. "Canadian Wood Frame House Construction" can be obtained from any of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's local offices. The price is $1.

. "Builders Guide to Energy Efficiency in New Housing" can be obtained from the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, Communications Department, 15 Toronto Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2E3. The price is $6.

. "Thermal Shutters and Shades" by William Shurcliff, can be obtained from the Brick House Publishing Co., Church Hill,Harrisville, N.H. 03450, U.S.A. The price is $12 US.

. "Low Cost Energy-Efficient Shelter" by Eugene Eccli, Rodale Press, Emmaus, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

- (cont'd) -

Energy Efficient Houses (cont'd)

. "Seal Your House Before Re-Insulating" can be obtained from the Office of Energy Conservation, Department of Mineral Resources, Government of Saskatchewan, 1914 Hamilton Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3P5.

. "100 Ways to Save Energy and Money in the Home", "Keeping the Heat In" and "The Billpayer's Guide to Furnace Servicing" can be obtained, free of charge, from the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Conservation Renewable Energy Branch, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A OE4.

. "Energy Matters", "Solar Energy Matters" and "Prospects for Solar and Wind Energy Utilization In Alberta" can be obtained, free of charge, from the Energy Conservation Branch, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, 1115 - 108 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C9.

. "Solar Systems in B.C." can be obtained from B.C. Hydro, Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. The price is $2.

. "Build your Own Solar Water Heater" can be obtained from Garden Way Association, Inc., Charlotte, VT 05445, U.S.A.

. "Solar Heating Catalogue 2" by B. Anderson, Brick House Publishing Co., Churchill, Harrisville, New Hampshire 03450, U.S.A. The price is $8.50 US.

It should be noted that not all the technologies shown and described in the above publications are appropriated for the severe climatic conditions in Canada and especially the Prairie provinces. Also, anyone who is planning to build a new house or to renovate an existing house should check with his local authorities regarding building costs and bylaws before he starts.

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December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ALBERTA AGRICULTURE OFFICE IN INNISFAIL

Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has announced the opening of a new district extension office in Innisfail.

Located in the new Provincial Building, it will provide a badly needed service to the rural community in the intensively farmed County of Red Deer as well as in part of Improvement District No.10. In general, the area includes the southern half of the present Red Deer district, which is occupied by approximately 850 farm families. Clients will be free to go to either or both offices.

The Innisfail office is staffed by a professional district agriculturist, a home economist and stenographic staff transferred from other locations.

Peter Funk, formerly district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House, is the first resident district agriculturist at Innisfail. A native of Saskatchewan, he obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Saskatchewan in 1950. From then until 1973 he farmed at Outlook, Saskatchewan. In October of 1973, he joined the economics division of Agriculture Canada and was seconded to Alberta Agriculture at Rocky Mountain House as a farm management consultant under the Small Farm Development Program. He was transferred from the federal service in 1977 to become district agriculturist at the same location. He retained that position until his present appointment.

Marilyn McNeil has been appointed district home economist at Innisfail . She is a native of Eckville and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1977 with a B.Sc. (home economics). She commenced employment with Alberta Agriculture at Olds in October of 1977 as district home economist-in-training. From September 1978 until her present appointment, she was district home economist at Rimbey.

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New Alberta Agriculture Office In Innisfail (cont'd)

Dixie Hodgson, who was transferred from Red Deer, will fill the duties of stenographer - receptionist. She comes from Innisfail and attended school there and at Olds College. She holds a diploma in floriculture and is a graduate of Reeves Business College in Red Deer, where she was also employed for a time with the labour standards branch.

The Innisfail office is Alberta Agriculture's 66th district extension office and is located at 4904 - 50th Street. The mailing address is Box 700, TOM 1A0. (Telephone: 227-6565).

A public open house is being planned in conjunction with the official opening of the new Provincial Building.

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December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FOR PROFIT 1981

Alberta Agriculture will again be conducting a top level seminar on all aspects of agricultural management at the Banff Centre in Banff from March 22-25, 1981. It is open to farmers and to a limited number of agribusiness personnel and agricultural staff.

The format of the seminar is similar to that of last year's Seminar B and is designed to provide information on the latest production and business management techniques and practices. The 21 relevant and timely topics will be presented by top ranking researchers and speakers from across North America.

The wide range of topics available, some of which will be presented twice, should enable participants to attend at least five sessions, depending upon the selection he or she makes.

Mike Jackson, Agri Business Associates, Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A., will be the feature speaker and his topic will be "The Challenge of the 80's from A Business Perspective".

Following are the 21 topics that will be discussed.

- Managing Credit for the 80's
- Tax and Estate Planning
- Off-Farm Investment
- Management Information and Feedlot Information Systems
- Risk Management
- Using Professionals
- Time Management
- Marketing Skills

- (cont'd) -

Managing Agricultural Technology For Profit 1981 (cont'd)

. Labor Management

. Self Worth and Motivation

. Keeping Kids on the Farm

. Stress

. Preconditioning Cattle and Sick or Down Animals

. Hedging Cattle

. Grain Handling Systems

. Grain Drying

. What's New in Machinery and Crops

. Big Machinery Management

. Energy

. The Farm Wife

. Alternatives to Machinery Ownership

The fee for the seminar is $125 for a couple and $100 for an individual. Registration forms will be available in early January and will be accepted on first come, first served basis. They and further information on the seminar can be obtained from James Obniawka, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, TOM 1PO. (Telephone: 556-8421).

Application forms can also be obtained from district agriculturists.

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December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry will be held at the Calgary Inn in Calgary on January 6 and 7, 1981.

Designed for farmers, ranchers, food processors and food retailers, it will provide the current economic and national policy information that is influencing, and will continue to influence, provincial, national and international markets in the food industry. It will explore the short and medium term economic future of the food industry in Western Canada and interpret the current monetary and fiscal policies of government. It will also explain what this means to agriculture and the food system in terms of inputs, interest, taxation, tariffs, export and import markets, capital projects and food processing.

Following is a list of the speakers:

Carl E. Beigie, President, C.D. Howe Institute, Montreal, Quebec.

Howard Falkenberg, President, Unifarm, Edmonton,Alberta.

Lou Teichroeb, National Beef Manager, Canada Packers Ltd, Ontario.

Dr. Hugh Horner, Consultant, Alberta Economic Development, Edmonton, Alberta.

David Hughes, President, Canbra Foods Limited, Lethbridge, Alberta.

Dr. Mel Lerohl, Chairman, Rural Economy, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

Frank Lovsin, Chief Executive Office, Alamart Investments Limited, Peace River, Alberta.

J. Wally Madill, General Manager, Alberta Wheat Pool, Calgary, Alberta.

Chris Mills, Manager, Alberta Cattle Commission, Calgary, Alberta.

Dr. Joseph J. Richter, Professor, International Trade and Marketing, Rural Economy, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

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Food Industry Conference (cont'd)

Clarence Roth, Deputy Minister, Planning and Services, Alberta Economic Development, Edmonton, Alberta.

Dr. David Slater, Chairman, Economic Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

Wayne Smith, President, Associated Grocers Limited, Calgary, Alberta.

The registration fee of $125 should be sent to the Director, Rural Education and Development Association, 9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1C4. (Telephone: 423-1617). The fee includes a wine and cheese party on January 6, a buffet breakfast, two nutrition breaks, luncheon and the banquet on January 7.

The Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry is being sponsored by the Rural Education and Development Association in co-operation with the University of Alberta's Department of Rural Economy and Faculty of Extension, Alberta Economic Development and Alberta Agriculture.

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December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORK INDUSTRY SEMINAR

"Back to Basics" is the theme of the Alberta Pork Seminar, scheduled to take place at the Banff Centre in Banff from January 7 to noon on January 9, 1981.

The seminar is intended for people who are involved in and concerned about pork production, which includes commercial hog producers, researchers, agribusiness service and supply representatives and extension and education specialists. It is designed to provide an opportunity for innovative participants to review major technical and economic developments affecting pork production and to examine the implications and application of these developments as they relate to individual producers, firms and the total industry.

The resource personnel in each of the major topic areas will be staying for the entire program to present new information and ideas and to lead discussions and an analysis of the issues. Special lounges have been reserved for informal discussions in the evenings so that participants have an opportunity to meet and talk to each other and to the resource people. The following are among those who have been invited.

Dr. H.E. Neilsen	– Senior Research Officer, National Research Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark.
Dr. Alan Jensen	– Swine Nutritionist, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.
Dr. Willem Sauer	– Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
Dr. Paul Kruse	– Assistant Research Officer, National Research Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark.
Dr. Erwin Kohler	– Chairman, Veterinary Science, Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Centre, Wooster, Ohio, U.S.A.
Dr. Casey Schipper	– Animal Health Division, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton.

- (cont'd) -

Pork Industry Seminar (cont'd)

Reg Norby	— Rural Economy, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
Ken Stickland	— Alberta Manager, Foodwest Resource Consultants, Edmonton.
John Westerhoff	— President, Farmland Foods, Kansas City, U.S.A.
John Feddes	— Agriculture Engineer, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
Dr. Ian Garnett	— Field Representative, Cargill Feeds, Mount Lima, B.C.
Dr. Russ Berzins	— Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
Dr. Len Bauer	— Rural Economy, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Rooms and meals are available at the Banff Centre residence for approximately $28 per person per day (double occupancy) or $36 per person per day (single occupancy). The registration fee is $95 per person, which should be paid to the University of Alberta and submitted before January 1, 1981, to the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G4.

The Alberta Pork Seminar is being sponsored, in co-operation with the Western Hog Growers' Association, by the Alberta Pork Producers' Marketing Board, the University of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture.

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December 15, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BRANCH OF THE CANADIAN SEED GROWERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 52nd annual meeting of the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association will be held at the Red Deer Lodge in Red Deer on January 20 and 21, 1981.

Highlights of the agenda will include reports on special crops, plant breeders' rights, the Seeds Act and SeCan.

The Alberta Branch would like to take this opportunity to encourage all members and guests to attend. Additional information can be obtained by telephoning the secretary of the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association at 782-4641 in Lacombe.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
JAN

"CHRISTIAN, seek not yet repose,"
Hear thy guardian angel say;
Thou art in the midst of foes;
"Watch and pray."

Principalities and powers,
Mustering their unseen array,
Wait for thy unguarded hours:
"Watch and pray."

Gird thy heavenly armour on,
Wear it ever night and day;
Ambush'd lies the evil one:
"Watch and pray."

Hear the victors who o'ercame;
Still they mark each warrior's way;
All with one sweet voice exclaim,
"Watch and pray."

Hear, above all, hear thy Lord,
Him thou lovest to obey;
Hide within thy heart his word,
"Watch and pray."

Watch, as if on that alone,
Hung the issue of the day;
Pray, that help may be sent down;
"Watch and pray."

BEST WISHES for CHRISTMAS and the NEW YEAR from
the staff of
Alberta Agriculture's Communications Division

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December 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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December 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE TUMBLEWEED TREE IN A DUG-OUT HOME

by Mrs. Jessie Porter

I learned something of courage in the face of adversity on my most memorable Christmas. It happened 42 years ago in a makeshift home dug into the side of a small hill on the Prairie.

My husband and I had planned to spend the holiday quietly in our two-room home near Cereal, a village 200 miles east of Calgary. The weather had turned cold. Clouds scudded across the sky and there was a hint of a storm in the air.

Memories of happier days in Lincolnshire, England, came flooding back. There were the large family gatherings, the plump roast goose, steamed plum puddings and strolling carollers. Even on the Christmas days that I had worked as a nurse in London hospitals, there had always been carols. But 42 years ago there was only the lonely wind whistling across the Prairies.

The barking of our cattle dog, a big collie, interrupted our reverie. Joe Brown, one of our neighbors, had come to take me to his home 10 miles distant — on a stoneboat.

As the only trained nurse in the district, I had become accustomed to calls at any-time of the day or night, but even a nurse likes to spend Christmas at home. However, nothing is more important in homesteading than helping one another. And Joe did look troubled.

The nearest doctor lived 48 miles away. I packed my straw suitcase with my nursing things, bundled up in my husband's fur coat and made ready for a bitter cold jaunt across the open Prairie. There's not much to a stoneboat, only rough planks attached to two runners. The only addition was a seat.

Although hardships were part and parcel of homesteading, the Browns were worse off than most. Newcomers in the district, they had arrived during the fall. Winter had set in

- (cont'd) -

The Tumbleweed Tree In A Dug-Out Home (cont'd)

early, not giving them much chance to get settled. Joe had made two dug-outs in the side of a small hill — one for the horses, a cow and a few chickens; the other for himself, his wife and small daughter. This would become the stable when they built their house in the spring.

It was to this house in a hill that we headed. With the temperature below zero, Joe tucked a huge robe around us. We had covered only half the journey when a sudden snow squall hurled itself down from the north. The snow stung our faces. I tied my scarf over my face and Joe pulled his cap low over his eyes. The horses plodded on through the storm.

Suddenly the stoneboat slewed into a rock. We pitched headlong into a snow-drift. Fortunately for us the team stood by. We shook the snow off and clambered back on to the stoneboat. With the storm gathering force, Joe relied more and more on the horses to find the way home.

The team shambled to halt at dusk. I never thought a bleak hillside dug-out could look so much like a haven. The living quarters had a cosy warmth and considering the circumstances appeared to be quite comfortable. Joe Brown had been a cabinet maker in England. The furniture showed excellent craftsmanship. He fairly beamed when he showed the little cradle he had built that morning. It contained a tiny straw tick and downy blankets.

Sarah Brown was apologetic:

"We feel badly about bringing you from home," she murmered. "But I am glad you could come. The doctor seems so far away."

The young couple already had one child, a wee girl sleeping on a cot. My eyes blurred at the sight of an empty white stocking pinned to the end of her pillow. It was Christmas Eve.

"How about a tree?" I asked, even though I knew there wasn't a tree for miles. Sarah Brown reached behind the curtains and brought out the largest tumbleweed I have ever laid eyes on.

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The Tumbleweed Tree In A Dug-Out Home (cont'd)

"Our tree," she announced with pride. Soon the three of us were busy with the trimming. We set the tumbleweed in the centre of the table, popped corn over red coals, strung it and hung loops on curving branches. Silver paper from a box of biscuits was fashioned into an angel holding a star. This was wired to the top and beneath it my red glass beads sparkled in the light from the kerosene lamp.

Who would have thought a Russian thistle could look so lovely? The excitement of Christmas crept into the home. Next we tackled the white stocking. We filled it with a little doll fashioned from colored yarn, some sweets and a hair ribbon. Joe pulled out a home-made red sleigh from under the bed.

At last the young mother-to-be could keep her eyes open no longer. I also decided to get some rest. At two o'clock in the morning Joe was up, rattling the stove grate, putting more coal into the stove and filling the tea kettle.

Sarah Brown obviously felt deep pain, but she handled it well. Her husband didn't. Lines of worry creased his face. I resolved to keep him as busy as I could so he wouldn't have too much time to think about what lay ahead.

It was nearly morning before I was able to utter the words every father yearns to hear: "It's a boy."

The baby gave its first lusty cry. Sarah managed a faint smile of gratitude. Her pleased husband spent what little remained of the night rocking his newborn son with the "red face and the blue, blue eyes."

There was a beautiful sunrise that morning. The storm had blown over. Fresh snow blanketed the Prairie. Later we heard the approach of a bob-sleigh. My husband had driven over to see if we were alright. My happiness was complete.

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The Tumbleweed Tree In A Dug-Out Home (cont'd)

I am 79 years of age now. But whenever I see tumbleweed I remember a Christmas of long ago and the Browns who, eking out a bare existence from a new homestead, welcomed the birth of a son with joy and courage and faith in the future.

– Reprinted from "Down Cereal's Memory Trails", compiled by the Cereal Women's Institute

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BOUNCING SNOW BALLS

A delightful centerpiece for your Christmas table!

1 tbsp. citric acid	2 cups water
2 tbsp. baking soda	food coloring
Mothballs, fresh & whole	Glass or crystal bowl

Mix citric acid, soda, water and food coloring in a bowl; pop in handful mothballs. They will immediately start to dance. For the most effective display, place the bowl on a mirror, and surround it with greenery.

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December 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR OF CHRISTMAS

by Marion Kelly
Freelance Home Economist

The Christmas traditions and customs we celebrate in Canada come from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds. We have adopted the decorated tree from the Germans, Santa Claus from the Dutch, and the hanging of the Christmas stocking from the English. Just as Canada is a multi-cultural country, so our Christmas is a multi-cultural celebration.

While many families in Canada celebrate a Canadian Christmas, many other families here celebrate Christmas in the same manner as their ancestors did years ago in their native homelands.

German Christmas

The approach of Christmas in Germany is marked with an advent wreath. The wreath, made of evergreen branches, contains four candles, for the four weeks of Advent. One candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. After the lighting of the Advent candles, coffee and goodies, (for example, stollen, the German Christmas fruit bread) are served.

The decorated Christmas tree also plays an important role in a German Christmas. Usually the mother of the family decorates the tree in a closed room. The Christmas presents are placed in the room and the children are not allowed to see the tree or the presents until Christmas Eve.

In Germany, Christmas Eve is a family time filled with mystery and excitement. It starts with an informal supper, a cold buffet or a meal of carp, after which many attend church. Upon returning home, everyone eagerly awaits the ringing of a bell. After the bell is rung three times, the doors to the closed room are flung open and the children get their first

- (cont'd) -

The International Flavor Of Christmas (cont'd)

glimpse of the decorated Christmas tree and the presents. Everyone then gathers around the tree for the reading of the Christmas Story and the singing of traditional carols. Finally, the Christmas presents are opened, after which coffee and goodies are usually served.

Christmas Day in Germany is a day for visiting friends. The traditional Christmas dinner is generally served at noon and the menu includes: roast goose, dumplings, red cabbage, and an elaborate dessert. Homemade eggnog is often served.

Ukrainian Christmas

Ukrainian Christmas is celebrated on January 6 in accordance with the Julian calendar. The most important occasion of the Ukrainian Christmas is the Suita Vecheria (Holy Supper) on Christmas Eve. It is a quiet family celebration full of meaningful customs.

In preparation for the Christmas Eve feast, a handful of hay (symbolic of Christ's birth in the manger) is spread under the table cloth. A braided ring-shaped bread called kalach is placed in the center of the table. The ring represents health and prosperity and the round shape symbolizes eternity. The bread has three tiers, representing the Holy Trinity. A sheaf of grain is placed somewhere in the room. It is tightly bound to symbolize unity and the many grains of wheat represent the ancestors.

The menu itself consists of twelve dishes symbolic of the twelve apostles. No milk or meat products may be used in the preparation of the meal. The main dish and the first dish to be served is kutia — boiled wheat with honey, nuts and poppy seeds. The meal is started with the Lord's Prayer then the father raises a spoonful of the kutia and says Khrystos Rodtvsia (Christ is born), after which the feast begins. The eleven dishes following the kutia might include: borsch (beet soup), varenyky (soft filled dumplings), vegetable dishes (using beans, mushrooms, cucumbers or beets) and one or more fish dishes. Dessert often consists of fruit compote and a cake or pastry.

- (cont'd) -

The International Flavor Of Christmas (cont'd)

After supper, everyone joins in singing traditional Christmas carols. At midnight, the family attends a special Christmas church service.

Although a few gifts may be exchanged Christmas Eve, Ukrainian gifts are traditionally exchanged on December 19, Saint Nicholas Day.

Scandinavian Christmas

Some parts of the Scandinavian countries spend much of the month of December in darkness. Christmas is therefore not only a time to celebrate the birth of Christ, it also provides an opportunity to dispel the dark gloom of winter.

The Scandinavians have their main celebration on Christmas Eve. After attending church, everyone returns home for an elegant dinner . In Denmark, roast goose or duck with apple and prune stuffing, red cabbage and carmelized potatoes are served. The Swedes often serve ham or pork and the Norwegians prefer lutefish (dried cod soaked in a lye solution made from birch ashes, and then boiled) or pork as the main dish. Almond rice pudding cooked with cinnamon and butter is a popular dessert in all three countries. In Denmark, the cook puts one whole almond in the pudding. The person who finds the almond gets a small gift, so the pudding is devoured with great excitement!

Following dinner, everyone moves into the living room to join hands and walk around the tree singing Christmas songs. The presents are then handed out and opened. Once the excitement is over, coffee and small cakes or cookies are served along with a glass of piping hot grog, a very tasty hot spiced wine.

Christmas Day in Scandinavia is usually spent visiting friends. A cold smorgasbord is often served at noon offering delicacies: a variety of breads, cheeses, sliced meats, meatballs, pickled herring, smoked eel, pickled beets, shrimp, cucumber salad, and a marinated salmon called gravlox.

- (cont'd) -

The International Flavor Of Christmas (cont'd)

The Scandinavians are popular for the small cakes and cookies they make at Christmas time. As many as ten different cookies and five different cakes may be served at one time. Some favorites are: kleiner (bowknot shaped donuts), sand tarts (fragile tarts eaten without filling), krumkake (a crisp cookies made with a special iron) and, for the Icelanders, vinaterta (a prune filled layer cake with cardamon flavoring).

– Reprinted from December 1979 "Connection", Alberta Agriculture.

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December 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTMAS RECIPES TESTED BY HOME ECONOMICS LABORATORY

Would you like to try a new recipe this Christmas? The following favorites were sent into Alberta Agriculture's Home Economics Laboratory for testing by district home economists in the north-central part of the province. They are highly recommended.

Turkey And Chip Casserole

50 mL butter or margarine
50 mL flour
300 mL water, stock or broth
50 mL finely chopped onion
250 mL chopped celery
1 can cream of mushroom soup (284 mL)
1 can cream of chicken soup (284 mL)
1 can sliced mushrooms (284 mL)
1 diced turkey
750 mL crushed potato chips (200 g)

Preheat oven to 190° C.

In the top of a double boiler or heavy saucepan, melt butter, blend in flour and cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Stir in liquid until smooth. Continue to cook and stir until slightly thick and no taste of raw starch remains.

Remove from heat. Add onion, celery and soups. Blend well. Fold in mushrooms, turkey and 500 mL crushed potato chips.

Pour into a greased 2 L casserole. Sprinkle the remaining chips on top. Bake at 190° C until piping hot, about 30 to 40 minutes. Yield: 12 to 16 servings.

Biscuit Turkey Roll

500 mL packaged biscuit mix
15 mL minced onion fresh or dehydrated
125 mL milk
500 mL diced turkey
250 mL diced celery
1 can cream of chicken soup (284 mL)

- (cont'd) -

Christmas Recipes Tested By Home Economics Laboratory (cont'd)

15 mL margarine
15 mL flour
150 mL milk
10 mL chopped parsley

Combine biscuit mix, onion and milk with a fork. Turn on to a lightly floured surface and knead gently 8 to 10 times. With a rolling pin, roll out to form a rectangle about 30 x 20 cm. Transfer to a greased jelly roll pan.

Combine turkey, celery and one-half the soup. Spread on biscuit mixture. Roll as for a jelly roll. Bake at 200° C for 18 to 20 minutes or until golden brown.

Meanwhile prepare sauce: In a double boiler or heavy saucepan, melt margarine, stir in flour. Stir milk into reserved one-half can soup. Gradually add soup mixture to flour mixture, stirring constantly until thickened. Add parsley. Serve on Turkey Roll.

Yield: 8 to 10 servings.

Do you sometimes wish you didn't have to prepare potatoes when you are cooking Christmas dinner? Cheesey whipped potatoes can be prepared the day before, just be sure to check that your oven is big enough for your turkey and a casserole.

Cheesey Whipped Potatoes

2 kg potatoes (about 9 large)
1 package cream cheese (250 g)
250 mL sour cream
5 mL onion salt
5 mL salt
pepper
25 mL butter
additional butter for topping

Cook and mash potatoes. Add cream cheese, sour cream, onion salt, salt, pepper and 25 mL butter. Whip.

Transfer to a greased 2.5 L casserole. Dot with additional butter. Cover and refrigerate.

- (cont'd) -

Christmas Recipes Tested By Home Economics Laboratory (cont'd)

Heat at 180° C, tightly covered, for 45 to 60 minutes or until centre is piping hot.

Yield: 12 to 16 servings.

Good with turkey or ham. Can be made the day before and refrigerated. Be sure to check ahead that the oven is big enough for a turkey and a large casserole.

Superb Almond-Fruit Bread

425 mL flour
15 mL baking powder
1 egg
50 mL oil
125 mL honey
175 mL milk
50 mL amaretto liqueur (or milk)
5 mL almond flavoring
125 mL chopped mixed peel
125 mL chopped glazed cherries
125 mL chopped glazed pineapple
125 mL toasted slivered almonds

Preheat oven to 180° C. Grease and line a 2 L loaf pan (23 x 13 x 7 cm).

In a large bowl, stir together flour and baking powder.

In a small bowl, beat together egg, oil, honey, milk, liqueur and almond flavoring. Pour into centre of flour mixture. Immediately add candied fruits and nuts and stir only until all ingredients are moist. It will be lumpy. Turn into prepared pan.

Bake 65 to 75 minutes or until a thin knife inserted in the centre comes out clean, except for fruit.

Cool on a wire rack. Wrap carefully. Store in a cool place up to 2 weeks or freeze This makes a nice gift.

Yield: 1 loaf (23 x 13 cm)

Cherry Delight

750 mL graham wafer crumbs
125 mL brown sugar
125 mL melted butter

- (cont'd) -

Christmas Recipes Tested By Home Economics Laboratory (cont'd)

500 mL whipping cream
1 package miniature colored marshmallows (283 g)
1 can cherry pie filling (540 mL)

Combine graham wafer crumbs, brown sugar and butter. Press two-thirds of this crumb mixture into the bottom of a 3.5 L cake pan (33 x 21 x 5 cm).

Whip cream; fold in marshmallows. Spread one-half of this cream mixture onto the crumb mixture. Next spread the cherry pie filling, then the remainder of the cream mixture. Top with remaining crumb mixture.

Refrigerate overnight.

Yields: 18 to 24 servings.

Oatmeal Carmelitas

32 caramels
75 mL milk
250 mL all-purpose flour
250 mL rolled oats
175 mL brown sugar
2 mL baking soda
1 mL salt
175 mL butter or margarine
250 mL chocolate chips
125 mL chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 180° C.

Melt caramels in milk, cool slightly.

In a large bowl combine flour, rolled oats, brown sugar, baking soda, salt and butter. Press half the crumbs into a 2.5 L cake pan (23 x 23 x 5 cm).

Bake at 180° C for 10 minutes; remove from oven. Sprinkle with chocolate chips and walnuts. Spread carefully with caramel mixture. Sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture.

Bake at 180° C for 15 to 20 minutes, or until lightly browned.

Chill 1 to 2 hours. Cut into bars.

Yield: 36 dainty bars.

- (cont'd) -

Christmas Recipes Tested By Home Economics Laboratory (cont'd)

Chocolate Cheese Dreams

250 mL chocolate chips
250 mL butterscotch chips
250 g cream cheese
250 mL chopped walnuts
227 g cut-up candied cherries
500 mL miniature marshmallows
500 mL coconut

Melt chocolate and butterscotch chips. Stir in softened cream cheese and marshmallows all at once, stirring until marshmallows are almost melted. Stir in cherries and walnuts Chill thoroughly.

Form into balls the size of walnuts; roll in coconut.

Store in the refrigerator, up to 1 month or freeze.

Yields: 60 - 65 cookies.

The recipes below make ideal snacks for a Christmas party.

Smoked Salmon Pate

2 cans salmon (220 g each)
250 g softened cream cheese
10 mL grated onion
10 mL lemon juice
5 mL prepared horseradish
1 mL salt
1 mL liquid smoke
125 mL coarsely chopped pecans
50 mL snipped parsley

Drain and flake salmon; add cream cheese, grated onion, lemon juice, horseradish, salt and liquid smoke. Mix well. Chill.

Roll in nuts and parsley.

Serve with crackers as an appetizer.

Yield: 12 servings.

- (cont'd)

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Christmas Recipes Tested By Home Economics Laboratory (cont'd)

Pickled Eggs

12	hard cooked eggs
2 cups	vinegar
2 tablespoons	sugar
1 teaspoon	salt
1 teaspoon	mixed spices (peppercorn, celery seed and whole cloves)

Peel eggs. Place in a quart jar.

Combine remaining ingredients and simmer for 8 minutes. Strain and pour over eggs. Cover jars. Let stand in refrigerator for at least 2 days before using.

Serve quartered, sprinkled with black pepper or paprika.

Yield: 12 pickled eggs.

Cheese Ball

250 g	cream cheese
250 g	sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
125 g	blue cheese (or increase quantity or cheddar)
50 mL	butter or margarine
1	clove minced garlic
	slivered almonds, toasted

Allow cheese and butter to soften at room temperature. Beat together. Add cheeses and garlic. Mix well. Cover and chill for 3 hours.

Divide into 2 portions; shape each into a smooth ball. Roll each ball in almonds, pressing lightly. Wrap in plastic wrap.

Refrigerate or freeze.

Serve, at room temperature, with crackers as an appetizer.

Yield: 2 cheese balls (8 cm each).

- (cont'd) -

Christmas Recipes Tested By Home Economics Laboratory (cont'd)

Mulled Wine

500 mL apple juice
1 L dry red wine
125 mL honey
1 unpeeled lemon, thinly sliced
4 whole cloves
4 allspice berries
2 small cinnamon sticks

Combine all ingredients and heat, without boiling.

Strain; serve very hot.

Yield: 12 servings (125 mL each).

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December 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAKING NEW CUSTOMS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

by Nadine Vester
Family Life Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Traditions are important at Christmas time — even to blasé teenagers! A mother recently overheard her 17 year-old daughter reminiscing with a friend about the chocolate balls her mother used to make for Christmas. She then turned to her mother with a mock threat of violence in the family if no christollen were baked this year. This same young lady always helps her father to decorate the tree; both agree it must be done at least a week before Christmas.

Christmas is a time for tradition, a time for families to get together and a time for familiar rituals. Christmas, from its very origin, has been recognized as a time for joy, but this rosy picture does not always reflect reality.

There are many families whose Christmas this year will not be the same as it was last year. Perhaps they have lost a family member, perhaps they are separated by distances too great to span with the time and money they have. If you are one of these, rather than looking back with nostalgia and longing, you will find Christmas more rewarding if you look ahead to creating new rituals for yourself. If you have lost a family member through death since last year, take a long look at your habitual celebration. If the missing member leaves a big gap, deliberately look for ways of changing your rituals. For example, if that person always purchased the tree and helped to decorate it on Christmas Eve, consider buying one earlier and inviting friends in to help with the decorating. It does not mean that your loved one is less loved. If children are involved, they need to realize that life goes on and that the missing person would have wanted them to be happy!

- (cont'd) -

Making New Customs At Christmas Time (cont'd)

Separation or divorce is a time of pain and bitterness, and the children will suffer even more if hostilities mar the Christmas season. Please, if you can, declare a truce, and come to some amicable arrangement ahead of time about where the children will spend the holiday. If they are to stay with their mother on Christmas Day, she will be creating her own customs for them to remember. Perhaps dad can take them to visit Santa and mom can attend their school concerts. They can be helped to bake cookies and make other gifts for dad. They need to know that it is alright to love both parents, even if they cannot be all together on this family holiday.

One couple whose children are almost grown know that they face a time when they may be alone for Christmas, so they have started a new custom. They invite a single mother and her children to join them for dinner. This means they can again buy presents for young children, watch them tear off the wrapping paper and help them to play with the new games.

Christmas is a time for nostalgia. That is true. After all, it exists to celebrate an event that took place 2,000 years ago. It is also a time for looking to the future with hope and joy — was that not the message brought to the shepherds. We can echo that message by our choice of customs — customs that go forward towards warmth and closeness rather than that looking back on pain and sadness.

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December 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SANTA CLAUS

Santa Claus, the jolly old elf with red cheeks and a white beard, is the American equivalent of St. Nicholas, a wealthy bishop of Myra in Asia Minor.

St. Nicholas was known for his great generosity in distributing gifts and money to the poor, especially children. He preferred to disguise himself and deliver his gifts after dark so that no one would know who had left them.

In sea-faring countries, St. Nicholas, also the patron saint of sailors, is especially revered. In Holland, Nicholas is called Sinter Klaas. Dressed as a bishop, with miter and crosier, he rides a white horse. On the eve of December 6th, children leave wooden shoes outside their doors and fill them with hay to feed Sinter Klaas' horse. Sinter comes during the night and replaces the hay with cookies and candies.

The Dutch brought their holiday traditions with them to North America. Gradually Sinter Klaas became known to other nationalities in the new world and visited an increasing number of children each Christmas.

It wasn't until 1882, when Dr. Clement C. Moore wrote a Christmas poem to entertain his children, that our present-day Santa Claus was born. In "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" Moore pictured him, not as a bishop in formal robes, but as a plump, cheerful fellow carrying a sack full of toys. Instead of riding a horse, he flew in a sleigh drawn by reindeer and jauntily came and went through the chimney of the house.

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December 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GERMAN CHRISTMAS STOLLEN

The following German Christmas Stollen recipe requires more work than some other recipes, but that little bit of extra work is more than justified, according to tests carried out by Alberta Agriculture's Home Economics Laboratory. Excellent is the rating they give this recipe.

1½ to 2 cups	chopped mixed peels and citron
2/3 cup	slivered blanched almonds
1 cup	sultana raisins
1/4 cup	rum, brandy or orange juice
1/2 cup	lukewarm water
1 teaspoon	granulated sugar
1 envelope	fast rising dry yeast
9 cups	(approximately) all-purpose flour
1½ cups	milk
3/4 cup	granulated sugar
1 teaspoon	salt
1/2 teaspoon	ground mace
4½ teaspoons	grated lemon rind
1/2 teaspoon	almond extract
1/2 teaspoon	vanilla
1 3/4 cups	butter or margarine (at room temperature)
1	slightly beaten egg white
	soft butter or margarine
	soft icing sugar

Combine peel, citron, almonds and raisins with rum, brandy or orange juice. Set aside.

Measure lukewarm water; stir in the 1 teaspoon of sugar and sprinkle with yeast. Let stand 10 minutes; stir well.

Measure 4 cups of flour into a warm large mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre and pour in yeast — do not stir. Cover. Let stand undisturbed for half hour.

Meantime, scald milk. Stir in the 3/4 cup granulated sugar, salt, mace and lemon rind. Cool to lukewarm; then stir in almond extract and vanilla. Add to flour and yeast and stir until blended. Beat until smooth.

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German Christmas Stollen (cont'd)

Cut up and add 1 3/4 cups butter or margarine and combine well, using hands if necessary.

Work in 3 cups more flour. Dust board generously with flour. Turn out dough and knead in as much flour as possible. When dough is very stiff, pat down to about one inch thickness.

Sprinkle fruit mixture with 1/2 cup flour; toss lightly and spread over dough. Fold dough over fruit; then knead quickly until fruit is well mixed in. Place in a greased bowl. Cover; let rise in a warm place free from draft for two hours.

Punch dough down and divide into two equal pieces. Roll each into an oval 12 x 8 inches. Brush with egg white, fold in half lengthwise; press edges together well. Place diagonally on a piece of greased wax paper or brown paper on a cookie sheet. Let rise in a warm place for one hour.

Preheat oven to 350° F. Bake stollen until done, from 45 to 65 minutes.

Lift loaves and papers onto wire racks. Brush generously with soft butter or margarine and sprinkle heavily with sifted icing sugar.

Cool completely. Store, well wrapped in a cool place for at least one week. It also freezes well.

Serve sliced with butter.

Yield: Two loaves.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTING A TREE FIRE AT CHRISTMAS ME

Many people are under the mistaken impression that there are products on the market that can be used to make natural Christmas trees fire-resistant.

According to the home safety committee of the Alberta Safety Council, this is not so. They say there is no product currently on the market that has been approved for retarding flames on a natural Christmas tree.

The solution that is usually used in fire-retardant products is a borax-boric acid compound. While it is satisfactory when used as a temporary fire-retardant for celluse fabrics like cotton and rayon, it is of little value when used on a Christmas tree. This is because the conifer needles do not soak up the chemical as a fabric does nor can the needles be properly coated on all sides.

Hence, the time-proven methods of guarding against a tree fire at Christmas time are still very much in fashion today. They are:

- Buy a fresh tree — one that has springy branches and green and tight needles.
- Keep it out of doors for as long as possible and in water or snow until you are ready to set it up.
- Saw off at least two inches of the trunk.
- Use a water reservoir tree-holder and keep it filled.
- Keep the tree away from such heat sources as registers, radiators and fireplaces.
- Use only CSA labelled lights that are in good repair.
- Use fireproof decorations whenever possible.
- Do not operate electrical toys under the tree.
- Put the tree out of doors as soon as possible — do not burn it in the fireplace!

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December 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR CHRISTMAS PLANT

The first thing to do when you receive your Christmas plant is to remove any colored foil or paper from the bottom of the pot so that the drainage holes are free and place a saucer under the pot.

Because most plants are in full bloom when they are given as a gift, they require very good lighting, if not direct sunlight. However, some, like cyclamen and azaleas, also need a cool atmosphere. The best thing to do with the latter in the winter is to put them in a south-facing window where the heat from the direct sunlight will be counteracted by the cold air which seeps in around the window. In the summer such plants should be put in a window that faces east so that they will get direct sunlight only until nine or 10 o'clock in the morning.

A good general rule to follow when watering houseplants is to water them thoroughly rather than less thoroughly and more frequently. Most houseplants suffer from over-watering, and even those which require a high humidity and a damp soil will be damaged if they are kept wet rather than just moist.

Tap water is usually too cold and contains too much chlorine and fluoride for good plant growth. The best way to overcome this problem is to fill a container with water and let it stand overnight. This will allow the water to reach room temperature and the chlorine and other gases to escape. Never use water that has been passed through a water softener on your plants because it contains too many salts.

It is a good idea to keep your new plant away from your other houseplants for about two weeks and to examine it carefully every two or three days for insects. Also examine the soil. If it is infested with insects, they will usually become evident when the plant is

- (cont'd) -

How To Look After Your Christmas Plant (cont'd)

watered. If you have to use an insecticide during the winter when it is difficult to air out your apartment or house, you would be wise to choose one that is derived from a vegetable source like pyrethrum or rotenone. They are less hazardous to human beings, and they do not have an unpleasant odor like some of the other insecticides.

Since plants breathe through minute openings on the underside of their leaves, you should wipe the dust off large-surface leaves once a week with a damp, soft cloth. Leaves that have a soft, hairy surface like those on an African violet, should not be washed. They can be cleaned with a small, soft-bristled artist's brush.

If you are going away after Christmas and do not have a friend who can look after your plant or plants, the following procedure is recommended.

Fill your bath with 7 - 10 cm (3-4 inches) of water and put empty pots upside down in the water. Then put a plant on each pot, making sure that its bottom is just above the surface of the water. Cover the bath with a thin sheet of clear plastic, like that used by fabric cleaners, and leave the bathroom light on. The plants will be alright for three to four weeks in this environment.

If you do not feel happy about using the above method, there are self-watering wicks, automatic light-controlling devices and other gadgets on the market for houseplants whose owners are going away.

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December 22, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN INEXPENSIVE NOVEL IDEA FOR DRESSING UP YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

by Linda Capjack
Home Economics Laboratory, Alberta Agriculture

Shimmering, glimmering hand-knitted bells can add sparkle to your Christmas tree or can be used for a last minute gift. They can be made from plain or sparkly yarn and decorated with pieces of old Christmas corsages.

Material:

Soirée metallic yarn 3.25 mm knitting needles, jingle bell.

Method:

Cast on 14 stitches. Row 1: K10 P4. Row 2: K. Repeat these two rows 22 times, ending with a knit row. Cast off, leaving 25 cm of yarn. Sew up side and gather top up tightly to form the top of the bell. Hang a jingle bell inside the knitted bell with a piece of yarn. Loop a long piece of yarn at top of the bell to hang it on the Christmas tree. Attach decoration to front of bell if desired.

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AGRI-NEWS

December 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
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COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

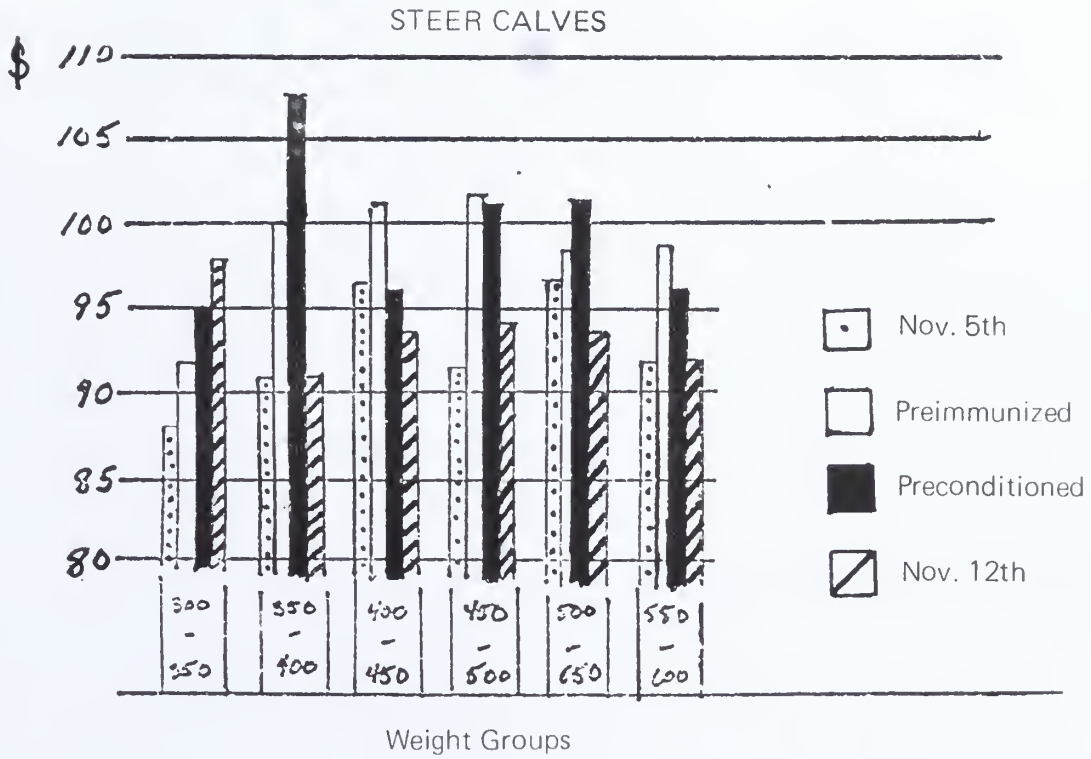
December 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRECONDITIONING CALVES PAYS OFF!

Do you precondition your calves? Judging by the Alberta Certified Feeder Calf Sale in Ponoka, this practice pays off!

The following graphs show the weighted average price paid for untreated calves the week before the sale, the price paid for the preimmunized and preconditioned calves at the sale and the price paid for untreated calves the week after the sale.



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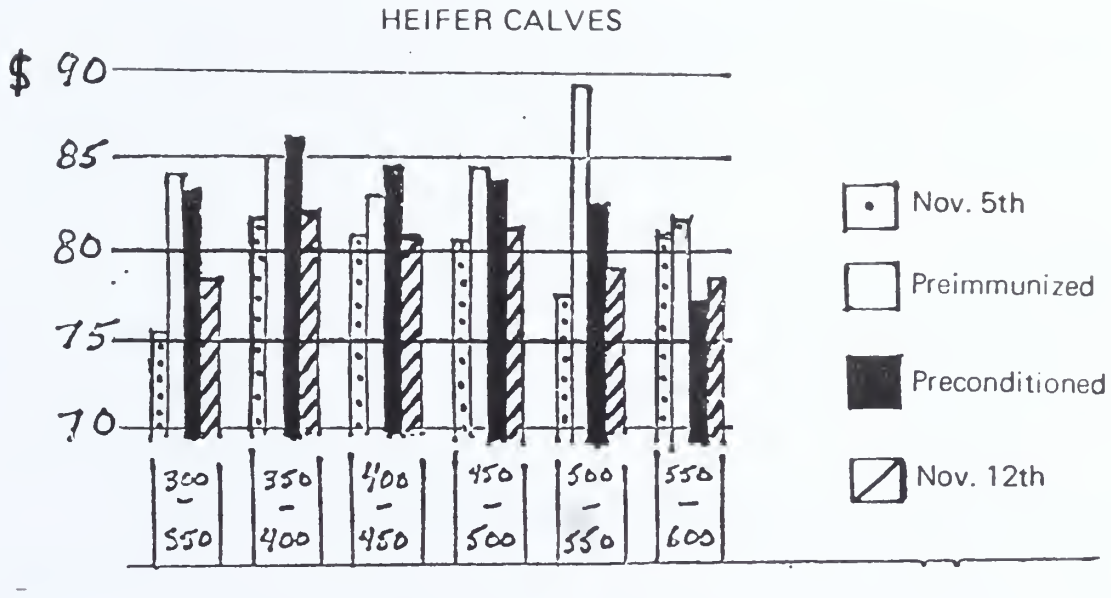
Preconditioning Calves Pays Off! (cont'd)



The cow-calf producers who participated in the Alberta Certified Feeder Program found that their calves averaged a gain of two pounds per day for 30 days during weaning, that they shrank less during transit to the sale and that they had better health in the feedlot. The producers also found that their cows went into the winter in better condition and that their fall pastures were in better condition than usual.

Fifty per cent of the calves went to Ontario and the remainder stayed in Alberta. The performance of both groups is being monitored in the feedlot.

The Ponoka sale was sponsored by the Ponoka Calf Preconditioning Society in conjunction with Vold, Jones, Vold Auction Market. The cow-calf producers who make up the society are planning to hold two Alberta Certified Feeder Calf Sales in 1981.

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December 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA DEVONIAN BOTANICAL GARDEN COURSES

The University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden will be offering a number of unique courses in the new year for people who are interested in gardening and plants in general This will be the first time that the botanic garden has offered courses during the winter months.

The courses will all be held in the new headquarters building at the botanic garden and in the grounds where the large collection of established plants will be used as instructional material. Because all the courses are based on a high degree of participation to develop practical skills, enrolment will be strictly limited.

Following is a list of the courses, their starting dates, the number of sessions involved and their cost.

Course Title	Starting Date	Number of Sessions	Cost
Flower Preservation and English Flower Arrangement I	January 28	4	$20
Natural Plant Dyeing and Spinning	February 2	6	$25
Botanical Illustration	February 7	10	$60
Terrarium and Container Gardening	February 8	1	$12
Wild Flowers of Alberta for Your Garden	February 16	4	$20
Growing and Cooking Sprouts	February 17	2	$10
Flower Preservation and English Flower Arrangement II	February 25	4	$20
My Very Own Garden (for children)	March 7	3	$6
The Home Vegetable Garden	March 10	6	$25

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Devonian Botanical Garden Courses (cont'd)

Bee-Keeping for Acreage Owners	March 11	3	$15
Growing Annual Flowers	March 19	2	$10
Nature Interpretation (for children)	March 21	1	$5
The Basics of Pruning	April 4	1	$10
Waterbeds at the Wetland Ecological Reserve	April 25	1	$6
Garden Maintenance and Construction	May 11	3	$15
Your Garden and Landscape and How They are Judged	May 12	1	$5
Alpine Gardens and Alpine Plants	May 24	1	$6

The Botanic Garden has also arranged to hold plant cross-country ski tours throughout the winter. These will be led by members of the staff, and participants will learn how to identify trees and shrubs by their winter characteristics while passing through the gently rolling and sheltered garden area.

The tours will be held on the afternoons of January 14 and 18; February 1, 11 and 15; and March 1, 4 and 15.

For detailed information on the courses and ski tours you can telephone the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden at 987-3054. Cheques for registering for the courses should be made out to "The Friends of the Garden" and sent to Devonian Botanic Garden, Room B-414, Biological Sciences Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2E9.

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December 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H ENDS PENNY SHORTAGE

by Bob Coe
Provincial 4-H Media Production Coordinator, Alberta Agriculture

Three-hundred and twenty-two thousand pennies are back in circulation in Alberta.

The small mountain of coins was collected during a province-wide 4-H Copper Clover Campaign which ended at the recent annual Leaders' Conference in Edmonton.

More than two tons of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters were sorted, counted and wrapped following the penny-pouring ceremony. 4-H club leaders from across Alberta made contributions on behalf of their club and other clubs in their areas.

Bank officials from an Edmonton office of the Provincial Employees Credit Union Ltd. and 4-H Foundation executives kept a running tally of contributions at the pouring ceremony, and leaders lined up for more than an hour to make their contributions. The official accounting carried out later was less than $50 off the estimated count at the conference banquet.

The money was delivered to the Provincial Employees Credit Union administration office for counting. Two sets of sorting and counting machines were used to separate and wrap the coins. Two full working days, involving about 75 man-hours, were required to complete sorting and counting.

John Dawson, the credit union coordinator with 4-H in the project, released the official tally.

Cheques accounted for the largest portion and amounted to $8,669. One cheque for $4,500 was presented by Gordon Fuhr, a Morinville 4-H leader on behalf of the Northwest Regional Council. The money was raised through a raffle held annually at Edmonton Northlands Klondike Days.

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4-H Ends Penny Shortage (cont'd)

The Copper Clover Campaign netted $13,256.52. According to Dawson, there were 48 bags containing $50 and weighing 67 pounds each; $300 in quarters; $175 in dimes and $122 in nickels.

The campaign idea was presented by Mrs. Georgina Bayes of Trochu at the 1979 4-H Leaders Conference in Banff. Mrs. Bayes had seen the success of a similar campaign held in Montana, U.S.A. Several 4-H delegates from Montana, who attended that conference, challenged Alberta leaders to conduct such a campaign in their province.

Plans for the campaign were formalized in mid-June by the Alberta 4-H Foundation. It was launched on August 10th by Mrs. Bayes at the 4-H Homecoming Rally at the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake, west of Wetaskiwin. The campaign ended three months later, at the conclusion of the Leaders' Conference.

Mahlon Weir, 4-H provincial supervisor of program services, coordinated the campaign in conjunction with the Leaders' Conference. "The response exceeded our expectations," he said, "especially considering the campaign was held during the summer months when almost all 4-H clubs are disbanded."

Alberta 4-H'ers raised $13,256 in three months compared with $12,487 raised by Montana during a six-month campaign.

Proceeds from the Copper Clover Campaign will go towards the future development of the Alberta 4-H Centre campgrounds at Battle Lake.

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December 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST AID AND CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION ON THE FARM

It would be a good idea if every Alberta farm had somebody who was trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, says Solomon Kyeremanteng, manager of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program.

He points out that a person trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation who acts quickly, decisively and effectively can often make the difference between life and death. A recent study of northern Alberta residents showed that there were more than 1,200 heart attack victims in one year whose death came within four minutes. It is estimated that 54 per cent of the victims could have been saved without any ensuing physical disability if cardiopulmonary resuscitation had been applied on the spot.

The first concern in most emergency situations is respiration. Sometimes an unconscious victim is unable to keep his airways clean by coughing, swallowing, etc. This problem can be solved by tilting the head back, providing the victim is not suffering from a neck or spinal injury. If the victim is not able to breathe because he is pinned under a tractor, you should remove the earth from under his chest area after making sure that the tractor will not roll any further.

The next concern should be bleeding. A simple but effective way of controlling bleeding is to grasp the limb directly over the wound. It is helpful to know the extremity pressure points (inside the upper arm or below the groin on the upper inside of the leg).

Severely bleeding extremity wounds and amputations will require a tourniquet if you do not have a pressure bandage or if the bleeding cannot be stopped by any other method. You can use a belt, a piece of clothing or anything else that is strong and narrow enough not to

- (cont'd) -

First Aid And Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation On The Farm (cont'd)

damage much of the underlying tissues. A tourniquet should be applied tightly two to four inches above the injury. However, a tourniquet should only be used after all other methods of controlling the bleeding have been tried.

After the victim's breathing and bleeding problems have been attended to, help should be sought. This can be done via the telephone, a passing motorist, a CB radio, etc. Because it is very easy to give incorrect directions when one is distraught, it is a good idea to write down the directions to your farm and leave it by the telephone, especially if you have children that might have to make an emergency call sometime.

Where can a farm person get training in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation? St. John Ambulance teaches a standard first aid course which covers respiration, bleeding, fractures, burns and other basics. It is a 21-hour evening course spread over three and a half weeks and is being offered in Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. St. John Ambulance also provides an advanced first aid course and publishes a first aid pamphlet for farmers.

The Alberta Heart Foundation teaches cardiopulmonary resuscitation in various places in the province. A free four-hour "Heart Saver" clinic is being offered in Edmonton until the spring of 1981 as part of the Edmonton Anniversary Project.

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December 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHY GO METRIC?

by Dr. I.R. Evans
Alberta Environment Centre, Vegreville

What weighs the most an ounce of feathers or an ounce of gold?

Answer: an ounce of gold.

The weight of gold and silver is assessed differently by means of the apothecary or troy weight system. The system is used chiefly by pharmacists.

Thus: One ounce of gold = 31.103 grams
One ounce of feathers = 28.349 grams

Does it follow that one pound of gold should weigh more than one pound of feathers?

Answer: No. A pound of gold or other precious metals under the apothecary system weighs only 12 troy ounces.

Thus: One pound of gold = 373 grams
One pound of feathers = 453 grams

We know that 20 ounces = 1 pint. In the U.S. 16 ounces = 1 pint. Therefore, a U.S. pint or gallon should = four-fifths of a Canadian pint or gallon.

Answer : Wrong. A U.S. pint is five-sixths of a Canadian pint. Why? A U.S. fluid ounce is larger than a Canadian fluid ounce.

Thus: One fluid ounce U.S. = 29.6 millilitres
One fluid ounce Canadian = 28.4 millilitres

One pint U.S. = 473 millilitres
One pint Canadian = 568 millilitres

A U.S. gallon = 3.8 litres; A Canadian gallon = 4.5 litres.

- (cont'd) -

Why Go Metric? (cont'd)

If you think that the Canadian system of weights and measures is identical to the British system you are wrong again;

One teaspoon Canadian = 4.74 millilitres
One teaspoon British = 3.55 millilitres
One teaspoon U.S. = 4.93 millilitres

and to really add to the confusion, one teaspoon Canadian (Hospital useage) = 5 millilitres.

Should we go metric?

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December 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEED FAIR AND HAY SHOW WINNERS

Following is a list of Alberta winners at the Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show

Grand Aggregate Exhibitor Award

Silver Baker

— Donated by the Alberta Branch, Canadian Seed Growers' Association

Winner: Petrussa Farms, Box 220, Big Valley.

Championships

Best Pedigreed Cereal

— $100 donated by the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Winner: Carl Bergerud, R. R. No.1, Ribstone.

Best Pedigreed Oilseed

— $100 donated by the Royal Bank of Canada.

Winner: J.H. Morrison, R.R. No.4, Vermilion.

Best Pedigreed Forage Seed

— $100 donated by Western Co-operative Fertilizers.

Winner: Frank Kastelic, Box 7, Sangudo.

Pedigreed Seed Classes

Class 1 - Hard Red Spring Wheat

1st — Ilchuk Seed Farm, Box 852, Vermilion. (Neepawa)

2nd — Jimmy J. Miklos, Box 55, Wrentham. (Canuck)

3rd — Larry & Wallace Holmen, Box 12, Wayne. (Neepawa)

Class 2 - Durum Wheat

1st — Art Strain, Box 356, Foremost. (Wakooma)

2nd — S & M La Valley Farms Limited, SS1-3-38, Lethbridge. (Wakooma)

3rd — Don Ostergard, Box 2550, Drumheller. (Coulter)

- (cont'd) -

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Seed Fair And Hay Show Winners (cont'd)

Class 3 - Winter Wheat

1st Jack B. Giffen, Box 562, Lethbridge. (Norstar)

2nd – Schindel Farms Limited, Box 357, Carbon. (Norstar)

3rd – James W. Bussey, Box 131, Airdrie. (Norstar)

Class 4 - Utility & Soft Spring Wheat

2nd – C. Klassen Seed Farm, Box 75, Rosemary. (Fielder)

Class 5 - Oats

1st Sulo Luoma, Box 490, Trochu. (Athabasca)

2nd – Petrussa Farms Limited, Box 220, Big Valley. (Cascade)

3rd – Sulo Luoma, Box 490, Trochu. (Cascade)

Class 6 - Malting Barley 6-Row

1st – Petrussa Farms Limited, Box 220, Big Valley. (Conquest)

2nd – David E. Kaun, Box 96, Penhold. (Conquest)

3rd James Millar, R.R. No.1, Crossfield. (Conquest)

Class 7 - Malting Barley 2-Row

1st – Carl Bergerud, R.R. No.1, Ribstone. (Klages)

2nd – Petrussa Farms Limited, Box 220, Big Valley. (Klages)

3rd – Sulo Luoma, Box 490, Trochu. (Elrose)

Class 8 - Feed Barley

1st – James W. Bussey, Box 131, Airdrie. (Hector)

2nd – Werner Farms, Box 825, Olds. (Klondike)

3rd – Petrussa Farms Limited, Box 220, Big Valley. (Klondike)

- (cont'd) -

Seed Fair And Hay Show Winners (cont'd)

Class 9 - Flax

1st – Frank J. Kastelic, Box 7, Sangudo. (Raja)

2nd – Albert F. Markert, Box 114, Vulcan. (Redwood 65)

3rd – Albert F. Markert, Box 114, Vulcan. (Dufferin)

Class 10 - Rapeseed (Polish Varieties)

1st – Gordon J. Bussey, Box 131, Airdrie. (Candle)

2nd – J.H. Morrison, R.R. No.4, Vermilion. (Candle)

3rd – Cy Little, Box 33, Penhold. (Candle)

Class 11 - Rapeseed (Argentine Varieties)

1st – J.H. Morrison, R.R. No.4, Vermilion. (Altex)

2nd – Don Ostergard, Box 2550, Drumheller. (Altex)

3rd – Sulo Luoma, Box 490, Trochu. (Tower)

Class 12 - Forage Legume Seeds

1st – James F. Burton, R.R. No.1, Tilley. (Valor alfalfa)

2nd – S & A Seed Farms Ltd., Box 489, Brooks. (Angus alfalfa)

3rd – Marcel Maisonneuve, 11 Butterfield Crescent, St. Albert. (Altaswede red clover)

Class 13 - Forage and Turf Grass Seeds

1st – Frank J. Kastelic, Box 7, Sangudo. (Basho timothy)

2nd – James MacArthur, Box 65, Botha. (Carlton brome)

3rd – Bill Holst, Hines Creek. (Carlton brome)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFTERMATH OF THE TURKEY DINNER

by Cathy Sinnott
Home Economics Laboratory, Alberta Agriculture

This is the time of year when we hear that perennial question "What can I do with my leftover turkey?" As you will see, your choices are actually quite numerous.

You will find it easier to remove the meat from the carcass before it is refrigerated. Furthermore, a whole carcass usually requires more room in the refrigerator than is available.

Pull the large pieces of meat off the bird and refrigerate them until the "day-after" turkey dinner. Refrigerate the meat, gravy and dressing separately. These will keep for three to four days in the refrigerator. You may serve the large pieces of turkey cold, heated in foil or even topped with barbecue sauce and broiled until it is hot and slightly browned.

Next remove the smaller pieces of meat. These can be used for turkey à la king, salads, sandwiches and casseroles. (More leftover turkey tips come later). If you don't wish to use the turkey in the next couple of days, freeze it. Plain turkey slices or pieces will keep for a month in the freezer. If they are covered with broth or a sauce, their freezer storage time will lengthen to three months. Turkey casseroles will also keep for three months at freezer storage temperatures.

Turkey tidbits and skin can be used in soup or ground up for use in croquettes, dips, spreads and sandwich fillings. The gravy can be used to make hot turkey sandwiches or as a tasty addition to soup.

Don't forget that a delicious turkey broth can be make by covering the bones with water, adding seasoning, a carrot, sliced onion, celery leaves or a couple of stalks, a piece

- (cont'd) -

Aftermath Of The Turkey Dinner (cont'd)

of bay leaf and simmering them for one-and-a-half to two hours. This broth can help to flavor casseroles, à la king sauce or soup.

Here are some other tips for using cooked turkey:

You can serve turkey à la king sauce over a variety of foods including rice, patty shells, toast points, noodles and even pancakes. A fairly thick sauce can also be used as a filling for crepes and pita bread.

You can add strips of turkey meat to main dish salads such as a chef's salad.

You can chop cooked turkey scraps and pieces in a blender and choose from a variety of ingredients to make dips and cracker spreads. These additional ingredients can include : celery, onion, mayonnaise, yogurt, grated raw carrot, toasted almonds or peanuts, sour cream or fruit.

You can make turkey burgers by grinding up your leftover turkey and combining it with bread crumbs, onion and seasoning. These burgers can be browned and served on a bun accompanied by cranberry sauce.

You can serve small bite-sized cubes of cooked turkey with a dip such as chilli sauce seasoned to taste with horseradish and a dash of hot pepper sauce.

These tips are intended as a starting point for experimenting and creating your own recipe ideas for leftover turkey.

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December 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COPE WITH FAMILY FINANCIAL RECORDS

by Jean Wilson
Alberta Agriculture's Home Economics Laboratory

Give yourself a gift this season -- a gift that will bring security and self-satisfaction and save time. Write for a free copy of the "Cope . . . with Family Finances" record book series and start organizing your family's finances.

The series is divided into three sections:

"Cope. . . with Family Financial Records" is a book in which you can record your family income and expenses. By doing this, you will have a better idea of "where the money goes".

Have you ever stopped to think about all the important papers in your life? By listing all of these -- wills, property titles, loans, etc. -- and their location in "Cope. . . with Family Financial Papers" you will know that another member of the family could handle your affairs if this became necessary.

As prices continue to rise, the value of your personal possessions increases too. Take the time to complete a household inventory in 1981. "Cope. . . with a Household Inventory" includes the information and forms needed to complete this important task.

The "Cope" series has been written with the farm family in mind, but the information is useful to all families.

Aim to get your family financial affairs in order in 1981 by requesting a copy of:

Cope. . . with Family Financial Records 1815-11

Cope. . . with Family Financial Papers 1815-41

Cope. . . with A Household Inventory 1815-31

The publications can be obtained from your local district home economists or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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December 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO VERMILION

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Bernadine Kramer to the position of district home economist at Vermilion.

Ms. Kramer was raised on a mixed farm near Fairview and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1980 with a B.Sc. (home economics), having majored in clothing and textiles.

Her previous work experience includes helping her father on the family farm and summer employment as a student (STEP) in 1979 with Alberta Agriculture. During this period she promoted the 4-H program in the Peace River region, which, among other things, entailed interviewing 4-H parents and leaders to find out their main concerns about the program. She also made a display unit which she took to the local fairs and organized a workshop for 4-H sewing leaders.

Ms. Kramer commenced her district home economist training in June, 1980, at High Prairie.

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